Larch (Larix decidua Mill., Larix kaempferi (Lamb.) Carr.)

Non Timber Benefits

Because of this, it is often included in plantations because of the variety of colours it brings to the landscape throughout the changing seasons. Larch is generally managed in such a way that stocking (stems per hectare) is low, thus allowing ground vegetation to re-establish quickly following thinning operations. This provides diversity of habitat for wildlife and visual diversity for forest visitors. It is also of value in fire belts as the vigorous growth which is commonly a fire hazard in younger plantations. Larch is also of value in the production of establishing crops quickly suppresses ground vegetation which is commonly a fire hazard in younger plantations. It is also of value in the production of establishing crops quickly suppresses ground vegetation which is commonly a fire hazard in younger plantations. Larch can be used for decorative purposes in floral arrangements. It has a wide range of applications in the horticultural industry.

Position in Irish Forestry

The natural distribution of Larch

Uses & Markets

Larch timber has a pale creamy brown sapwood and a distinctly reddish brown heartwood which is durable and strong. This inherent durability and strength means that it has traditionally been used for gate material, boat building and other outdoor uses. The effective preservative treatment of other timbers prior to a situation where larch is not as important a timber as it once was. Nevertheless, the advantage of larch as a durable timber is still appreciated and it is still the standard by which all other softwood fencing stakes are judged by farmers. Larch is also used for decorative purposes in floral arrangements. It has a wide range of applications in the horticultural industry.

Further Information

Further information on growing larch can be obtained from your local Forest Service Inspector or any Professional Forester. Further information on growing larch can be obtained from your local Forest Service Inspector or any Professional Forester.