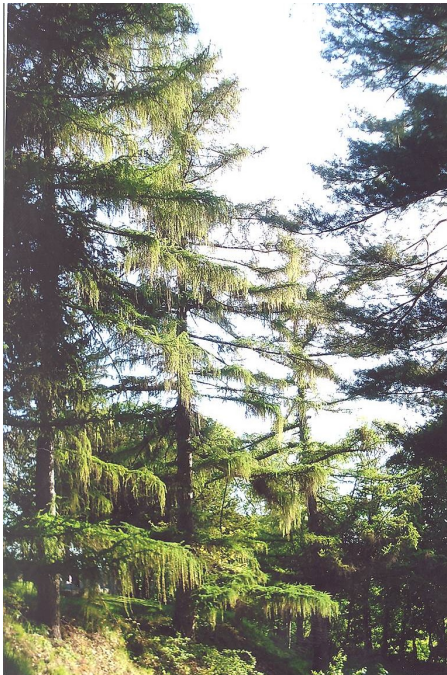
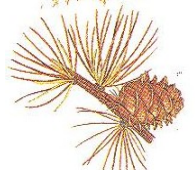


JAPANESE LARCH

Larix kaempferi

Deciduous. Native to Mount Fuji, the Japanese larch is a medium to large tree often 60-80' tall. It can be confused with the European Larch. However, the Japanese larch is a more vigorous, shorter, stouter tree with heavier branches. And the twigs of the European larch are yellowish, while the Japanese larch are reddish brown. The Japanese larch is also distinguished by its purplish-red shoots, wider leaves, and squatter cones with its scales reflexed outward like rose petals. The leaves of the Japanese larch are needlelike and soft, 1-1½" long, singly on long shoots, whorled on side shoots, gray-green to blue-green. The bark is reddish brown and scaly. The male flowers are yellow, drooping, while the female are creamy or pinkish, upright, in separate clusters in the same plant in spring. The fruit is an egg-shaped upright cone up to 1-1¼" in length. The larch is the only conifer to shed its leaves annually.



There are four mature Japanese larch trees close together on the northeast side of Trinity Ave. along the ridge that faces Market St. and the small gate at 13th St. These trees are narrow in width with their long whorled side shoots hanging from the main branch. There are also three mature Japanese larch scattered along the southwestern side of Trinity Ave. by the London planetrees. Each of these three larch are sparse in the density of their needlelike leaves. All three are loaded with cones. And there is one shy, inhibited Larch a few yards inside the 16th St. entrance along the neighbor's property line.

