

TAMARACK



In nature's gold rush, deciduous tamarack (*Larix laricina*) trees change colour in fall, weaving ribbons of gold through the boreal forests of black spruce, fir, pine, poplar, birch and willow that span Canada's north before giving way to tundra at the Arctic Circle. Beyond, the boreal zone circles the northern hemisphere, storing more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem.

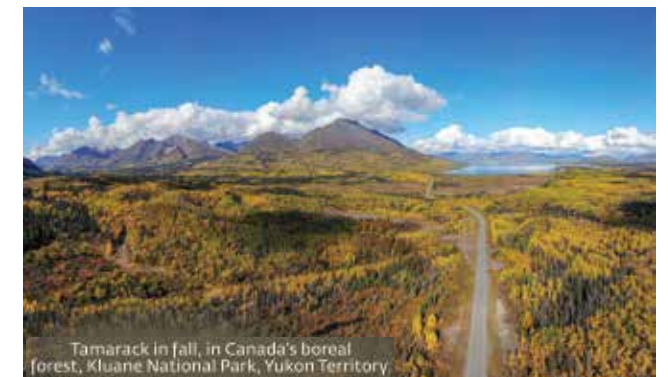
The largest intact forest on Earth, Canada's boreal forests host a network of 1.5 million lakes, rivers and wetlands and provide habitat for millions of birds, woodland caribou, bison, elk, moose, bears and lynx. Oh, and plenty of mosquitoes and black flies! Tamarack seeds and bark feed birds and showshoe hares, and the tree is the larval host for the Columbia silkmoth.

Ojibwe First Nations peoples call this tree mashikiigwaatig which means "swamp tree". They craft snowshoes from its flexible wood and make medicinal tea from the bark.

Pine Family – Pinaceae | Conservation status: Least Concern



Seed cone with newly emerging spring foliage.



Tamarack in fall, in Canada's boreal forest, Kluane National Park, Yukon Territory