



European Larch – *Larix sibirica*

Other Names: Siberian Larch

Region of Origin: Siberia, Russia



SPECIES OVERVIEW:

The wood is pale yellow-white in colour, with clearly marked and close annual rings. The wood grain is straight and not interlocked, contains tight knots and has a fine uniform texture. It is quite dense for a softwood due to slow growing season. The wood is moderately durable and the heartwood is resistant and sapwood moderately resistant to preservative treatment. Larch dries fairly rapidly with some degrade. It may be kiln dried very satisfactorily. There is small movement and some minor surface checking in exposed situations.

MAIN USES:

Weatherboard cladding, door and window frames and other exterior joinery.

WORKING PROPERTIES:

Works well with most hand and machine tools but knotty material can cause severe blunting of cutting edges. It saws and machines cleanly in most operations. Nailing causes splitting and pre-boring is essential. It takes stain, paint and varnish well.

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES:

Larch is harder and tougher than most conifers and is used in preference when durability and strength are prime requirements.

AVAILABILITY:

Specifications stocked at Rosenfeld Kidson are:
Sawn 32mm and 50mm thicknesses in a range of widths.
Weatherboard, fascia, mouldings, TG&V and panelling products.

GRADING:

Unsorted I-III.

DENSITY (kg/m ³)*:	560–720	
DURABILITY:	Moderately durable	
STRENGTH GROUP:	SD6	
MOR (MPa):	Unseasoned 54	Seasoned 88
MOE(GPa):	Unseasoned 8	Seasoned 10
JANKA(kN):	4.9	
SHRINKAGE GREEN TO 12% M.C.	Tangential 9.0	Radial 4.0

*Air Dry Density (kg/m³) is average indication only and actual value may vary. Refer to timber properties tables over page for strength, shrinkage and durability classifications.



STRENGTH GROUPINGS:

Minimum values for strength groups (unseasoned timber)			
<i>(units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch)</i>			
Strength group	Modulus of rupture	Modulus of elasticity	Maximum crushing strength
S1	103	16300	52
S2	76	14200	43
S3	73	12400	36
S4	62	10700	31
S5	52	9100	26
S6	43	7900	22
S7	36	6900	18

Minimum values for strength groups (seasoned timber)			
<i>(units are Mpa = 145 lb/sq.inch)</i>			
Strength group	Modulus of rupture	Modulus of elasticity	Maximum crushing strength
SD1	150	21500	80
SD2	130	18500	70
SD3	110	16000	61
SD4	94	14000	54
SD5	78	12500	47
SD6	65	10500	41
SD7	55	9100	36
SD8	45	7900	30

SHRINKAGE CLASSIFICATIONS:

Description of shrinkage	Shrinkage from Green to Oven-dry (12% MC)	
	(% before reconditioning)	
	Tangential	Radial
Very low	0 - 3.5	0 - 2
Low	3.5 - 5.0	2 - 3
Medium	5.0 - 6.5	3 - 4
High	6.5 - 8.0	4 - 5
Very high	> 8.0	> 5

DURABILITY CLASSIFICATIONS:

Grade of durability	Approximate service life (years)
	In-ground contact
Very durable	>25
Durable	15-25
Moderately durable	10-15
Non-durable	5-10
Perishable	<5