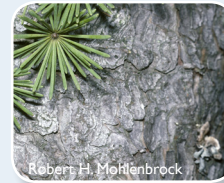


## Trees of the Huron River Watershed in a Changing Climate

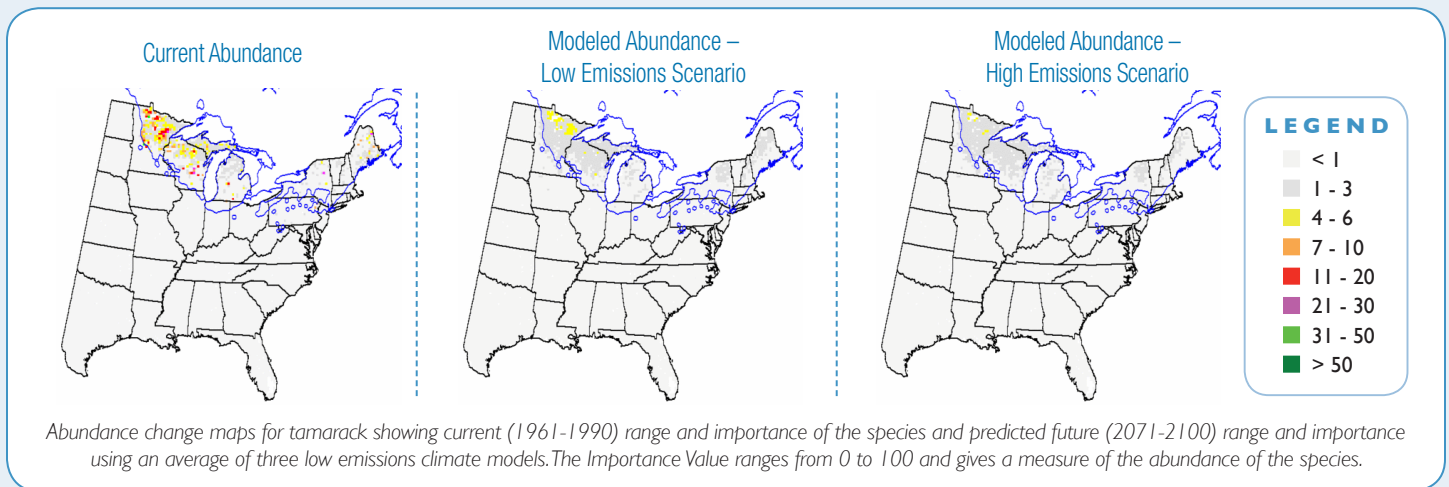
### Tamarack *Larix laricina*

#### Description

Tamarack is found only in the northern Midwest states in peatlands and various other open wet areas including swamps, bogs, and shores. It is generally low in abundance within its current US range. Tamarack is a very shade intolerant, fast growing, and short lived species. It tolerates both acidic and basic soil conditions (bogs and fens). It is a pioneer of cold, open, wet areas where there is little competition.



#### Change Maps for Tamarack<sup>1</sup>



#### Implications of Climate Change

As a primarily wetland species, tamarack will decline as summers dry and warm. Models predict an almost total loss of this species from the US due to climate change. In the Huron River Watershed, declines in this species could prove an indicator of developing stresses on its associated ecosystems. Tamarack may survive in this area in very moist soils as a landscape planting.

#### Natural Communities Associations<sup>2</sup>

Canopy dominant in rich tamarack swamp and prairie fen. Canopy associate in southern hardwood swamps and bogs.

#### Vulnerability of Natural Communities<sup>3</sup>

As wetland communities that typically occur in isolated patches of unique conditions, each of the natural communities in which tamarack occurs, has a high vulnerability to climate change both due to altered hydrology and limited dispersal potential.

<sup>1</sup>Prasad, A. M., L. R. Iverson., S. Matthews., M. Peters. 2007-ongoing. A Climate Change Atlas for 134 Forest Tree Species of the Eastern United States [database]. <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/atlas/tree>, Northern Research.

<sup>2</sup>Michigan Natural Features Inventory. [www.mnfi.anr.msu.edu/communities](http://www.mnfi.anr.msu.edu/communities)

<sup>3</sup>Lee, Y., M. A. Kost, J. G. Cohen, and E. H. Schools. 2012. Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategies for Natural Communities in Michigan, Focusing on the Coastal Zone. Michigan Natural Features Inventory Report No. 2012-18, Lansing, MI.