

# Consider planting new tree

By **LON TONNESON**

**N**EEED a new tree to replace dead elms and ash trees in your windbreak?

Take a look at the Siberian Larch, suggests Mohammed Iddrisu, North Dakota State University forest genetics research scientist who works at the USDA Northern Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, N.D.

"It's an ideal tree for Northern Plains windbreaks," he says.

Native to eastern Russia and China,

the Siberian Larch belongs to the same family as Tamarck. It grows rapidly, likes the long-daylight periods of northern summers, tolerates extreme summer heat and winter cold, reaches heights of 30 to 60 feet when mature, thrives on a wide variety of soils with pHs in the 5 to 7.5 range, and has an upright stem growth habit and deep, non-spreading roots.

Best of all, Siberian Larch isn't susceptible to the insects and diseases that are killing elm and green ash trees.

Siberian Larch is a deciduous co-

nifer. Unlike evergreen conifers, it drops its needles in the winter.

About 15 years ago, forestry specialists collected seed from different regions of Siberia, Kazakhstan and Finland and planted it at the USDA center near Mandan.

Trees that grew from seed collected from the Altai Krai and Krasnoyarsk regions in Siberia performed better at Mandan than trees that grew from seed collected from other regions, Iddrisu says. He recommends these sources for windbreak plantings in the Dakotas.



**IDEAL TREE:** The Siberian Larch is a promising new species for use on Dakota farms.