Larches (genus *Larix*) are a bit of an oddball in the evergreen world because they **aren't truly evergreen**—they're actually **deciduous conifers**! 🌲🍂

Why Are Larches "Deciduous Evergreens"?

Larches belong to the **conifer family (Pinaceae)** and have needle-like leaves, much like traditional evergreens. However, unlike true evergreens, they **shed all their needles every fall**—making them **deciduous**, like maples or oaks.

Key Reasons They Are Special:

1️⃣ They Have Needles Like Evergreens

- Larches grow soft, slender needles in clusters, much like pines and spruces.
- These needles are green in spring and summer, helping them photosynthesize like an evergreen.

2️⃣ They Change Color & Shed Needles in Fall 🍁

- Unlike true evergreens, larches turn a beautiful **golden-yellow in autumn** before shedding their needles completely.
- This is why they are called **deciduous conifers**—they have cone-bearing seeds but lose their foliage annually.

3️⃣ They Thrive in Cold Climates

- Most evergreen trees keep their needles in winter to conserve energy, but larches have adapted differently.
- Their soft needles **aren't as resistant to freezing temperatures** as pines or firs, so they drop them in fall to survive the cold.

4️⃣ They Regrow Needles in Spring 🌿

- Just like deciduous trees regrow their leaves, larches sprout fresh, bright-green needles every spring.

Examples of Larch Trees

- **Tamarack Larch (*Larix laricina*)** – Native to North America, found in wetlands and cold regions
- **European Larch (*Larix decidua*)** – Common in the Alps and colder European climates
- **Japanese Larch (*Larix kaempferi*)** – Grown ornamentally for its stunning fall color

So, Are They Evergreens or Deciduous? 🤔

They are **deciduous conifers**, meaning they **technically aren't evergreens** because they don't stay green year-round. However, because they have needle-like leaves and cones, some people mistakenly group them with evergreens.

Larches are a great example of how nature loves to mix things up! 😄 Want me to generate an image of one in its golden fall color?