Spruce, Little Gem (tree form)

Picea abies 'Little Gem (tree form)'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Norwegian Spruce

Description:

An extremely small and compact tree; adaptable and hardy, very slow growing; excellent choice for small-scale topiary form in rock gardens or as a year-round garden detail element

Ornamental Features

Spruce, Little Gem (tree form) is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its highly ornamental lollipop-like shape. It has rich green evergreen foliage which emerges lime green in spring. The needles remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Spruce, Little Gem (tree form) is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub, selected and trained to grow in a small tree-like form with the primary plant grafted high atop a standard. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub. When pruning is necessary, it is recommended to only trim back the new growth of the current season, other than to remove any dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Spruce, Little Gem (tree form) is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use



Spruce, Little Gem (tree form)
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Spruce, Little Gem (tree form) will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. This plant should be periodically fertilized throughout the active growing season with a specially-formulated acidic fertilizer. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (3): Cones are 4 to 7 inches long and 1 1/2 inches wide. Clean up is blow or rake cones, scoop and bag them. Spruce lose inner needles, they can be blown or raked onto the lawn and mow or bag. Evergreens need to be watered during the winter. Our desert climate especially in late winter to early spring evergreens can suffer during next growing season. An easy way to remember check for dryness on the holidays Halloween, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, Valentines Day & Easter. During the growing season is maintain regular deep watering.