Spruce, Black Hills

Picea glauca var. densata

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Description:

A spire-like evergreen, tall and stately with bluish-green needles, more densely branched and fuller than the species; very tough and adaptable, makes a wonderful vertical accent for the larger home landscape, ideal as a windbreak or in a shelterbelt

Ornamental Features

Spruce, Black Hills is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has bluish-green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The needles remain bluish-green throughout the winter. The smooth gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Spruce, Black Hills is a dense evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree. When pruning is necessary, it is recommended to only trim back the new growth of the current season, other than to remove any dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Spruce, Black Hills is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Vertical Accent
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts



Spruce, Black Hills
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Spruce, Black Hills
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Spruce, Black Hills will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 90 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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 species is native to parts of North America.

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

Clean Up Rating (3): Black Hills Spruce Cones are oval shaped, length 1/2 to 1-1/2 inches; young cones purple, mature cones dark brown. 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 them. 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.