Spruce, (Colorado Blue) Fat Albert

Picea pungens 'Fat Albert'



Spruce, (Colorado Blue) Fat Albert
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Other Names: Blue Colorado Spruce;Colorado Blue Spruce

Description:

A dense and compact spire-shaped evergreen accent tree for general landscape use with large stout branches and long, very pointy silvery-blue needles, very showy and colorful, an ideal size for smaller home landscapes, extremely hardy and rugged

Ornamental Features

Spruce, (Colorado Blue) Fat Albert is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has attractive blue evergreen foliage which emerges silvery blue in spring. The needles are highly ornamental and remain blue throughout the winter. The rough gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Spruce, (Colorado Blue) Fat Albert is a dense evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

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. 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, (Colorado Blue) Fat Albert is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use



Spruce, (Colorado Blue) Fat Albert
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Spruce, (Colorado Blue) Fat Albert will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. 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 selection of a native North American species.

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

Clean Up Rating (4): Cones are oval shaped 3 1/2 to 6 1/2 inches long, young cones are purple changing to brown as they mature. 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 mowed or bagged. 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.