Spruce, Colorado

Picea pungens



Spruce, Colorado
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 60 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Description:

A high quality evergreen accent tree with large stout branches and long, very pointy needles in colors ranging from bright green to silver blue, different from tree to tree; extremely hardy and rugged, makes an excellent windbreak

Ornamental Features

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

Landscape Attributes

Spruce, Colorado 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 is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Planting & Growing

Spruce, Colorado will grow to be about 60 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium 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 species is native to parts of North America.

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. 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, 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.