Spruce, (Colorado Blue) The Blues

Picea pungens 'The Blues'



Spruce, (Colorado Blue) The Blues
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Blue Colorado Spruce;Colorado Blue Spruce

Description:

A small slow-growing accent tree with gracefully pendulous branches and fine bright blue needles; can be trained to grow upright or in a spreading form, and may reach 6ft in 10 years; makes a stunning visual impact in the landscape

Ornamental Features

Spruce, (Colorado Blue) The Blues is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its highly ornamental weeping form. It has attractive steel blue evergreen foliage which emerges silvery blue in spring. The needles are highly ornamental and remain steel blue throughout the winter. The rough gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Spruce, (Colorado Blue) The Blues is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a rounded form and gracefully weeping branches. 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.



Spruce, (Colorado Blue) The Blues foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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, (Colorado Blue) The Blues is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Spruce, (Colorado Blue) The Blues will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 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 shrub 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, 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.