

Colorado Spruce

Picea pungens (Family: Pinaceae)

Description: A tall evergreen that sometimes has attractive blue tinted needles. Often has a tall, pyramidal habit but there are numerous cultivars giving a variety of sizes, shapes and uses in the landscape.

Hardiness: USDA hardiness zones 3 – 7

Mature Size: Height: 30 – 60' , Spread: 10 – 20'

Form (Shape): Dense, with narrow to broad pyramidal habit

Growth Rate: Slow to medium

Foliage: Evergreen: Single needles $\frac{3}{4}$ - $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long, prickly, usually green to blue green with silver gray tint

Texture: Medium to coarse

Flower: Not ornamental

Fruit: Oblong cones

Special Features: Some plants in this species have blue tinted needles making them more attractive than the straight green.

Light Preferences: Full sun

Soil Preferences: Rich, moist soil

Propagation: Seed and grafting onto seedling rootstocks.

Ornamental Attributes: Blue tinted needles

Landscape Attributes: Some cultivars prove better as specimens in landscape, such as dwarves while larger trees work best as wind breaks or in groupings.

Comments: An overused plant but still important to the industry due to its blue color and being evergreen. This species is highly susceptible to needle cast which will cause them to drop their older needles. It can be prevented through a fungicide treatment.

Availability: Readily available with multiple cultivars.