

F2200 (July 2024)

Joseph Zeleznik, Ph.D., Extension Forester

# North Dakota Tree Selector

## General

**Scientific Name:** *Picea glauca* var. *densata*

**Family:** Pinaceae (Pine)

**Hardiness:** Zone 2

**Leaves:** Evergreen

**Plant Type:** Tree

## Growth

**Rate:** Medium

**Mature Height:** >45'

**Longevity:** Long

**Power Line:** No

## Ornamental

**Flowers:** Inconspicuous

**Fruit:** Tan cones

**Fall Color:** n/a

## Black Hills Spruce

### Description

A large tree, very dense and pyramidal when young. Not as drought tolerant as Colorado (blue) spruce, but more disease tolerant than Colorado (blue) spruce. Black Hills spruce is a naturally occurring variety of white spruce (*Picea glauca*), native to the Black Hills of South Dakota. Better adapted than white spruce which is native in the eastern United States, as far west as Minnesota. The largest Black Hills spruce tree in North Dakota is 98 feet tall with a canopy spread of 43 feet.

### Preferences

**Light:** Full sun.

**Water:** Fairly drought resistant. Needs additional moisture during drought.

**Soil:** Grows best in moist loams.

### Comments

Dwarf Alberta spruce (*P. glauca* 'Conica') - A dwarf, compact cultivar very subject to winterburn and spider mites.



Credits: Tree Selector Website, North Dakota Tree Handbook