

F2201 (July 2024)

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North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Picea pungens*

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

Colorado (Blue) Spruce

Description

A broad, dense, pyramidal tree with stiff branches nearly horizontal to the ground. Native to intermountain states of the west. Choice specimen tree, but increasing disease problems. The largest Colorado (blue) spruce tree in North Dakota is 85 feet tall with a canopy spread of 30 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full sun, does not tolerate shade.

Water: Does not tolerate flooding. While most drought tolerant of the spruce trees, drought can also result in problems with Valsa canker.

Soil: Performs well on a wide variety of soils.

Comments

Susceptible to Valsa canker and the needlecast diseases, plus a number of additional insect and disease pests. Several ornamental cultivars available including:

Blue Globe spruce – Excellent blue-needled dwarf bush.

Hoops blue spruce – Striking steel blue.

'Iseli Foxtail' blue spruce – Blue, bushy needled form.

Commonly used in shelterbelts and windbreaks.



Credits: Tree Selector Website, North Dakota Tree Handbook

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