

Norway Spruce

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Kingdom:	Plantae	Norway Spruce (<i>Picea abies</i>) is a species of spruce native to Europe. It is also commonly referred to as the European Spruce. It is a large evergreen coniferous tree growing to 35–55 m (115–180 ft) tall and with a trunk diameter of up to 1–1.5 m. The shoots are orange-brown and glabrous (hairless). The leaves are needle-like, 12–24 mm long, quadrangular in cross-section (not flattened), and dark
Division:	Pinophyta	
Class:	Pinopsida	
Order:	Pinales	
Family:	Pinaceae	
Genus:	<i>Picea</i>	
Species:	<i>P. abies</i>	

green on all four sides with inconspicuous stomatal lines. The cones are 9–17 cm long (the longest of any spruce), and have bluntly to sharply triangular-pointed scale tips. They are greenish purple, maturing brown 5–7 months after pollination. The seeds are black, 4–5 mm long, with a pale brown 15 mm wing.

The most common spruce for general landscape use, *Picea abies* has a pyramidal outline with a strong central leader, horizontal secondary branches, and pendulous tertiary branches. It is an extremely dominant focal point in the average landscape. Needs ample space to spread its limbs. The lustrous dark green needles maintain their color throughout the winter as well as any evergreen.

This species is extremely adaptable to, except to high heat. Best used in groupings or perhaps as a specimen evergreen.

The Norway Spruce is one of the most widely planted spruces, both in and outside of its native range, and one of the most economically important coniferous species in Europe. It is used in forestry for timber and paper production, and as an ornamental tree in parks

and gardens. It is also widely planted for use as a Christmas tree.



It is naturalised in some parts of North America, though not so extensively as to be considered an invasive weed tree. It can grow fast when young, up to 1 m per year for the first 25 years under good conditions, but becomes slower once over around 20 m tall.

The Norway Spruce tolerates acidic soils well, but does not do well on dry or deficient soils.

