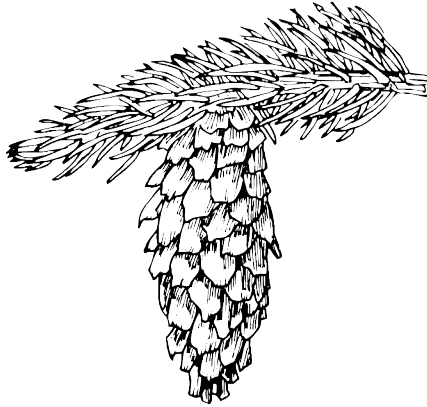


Leaf Identification



Colorado Blue Spruce
(*Picea pungens*)

Colorado blue spruce has a symmetrical, pyramidal form reaching 30'-60' in height with a 10'-20' spread under landscape conditions, more than 100' in height and 30' spread in the wild. Dense branches extend to the ground when young; with age, the branches begin to droop and the crown often becomes open and irregular. The 1"-1½" stiff, prickly needles are silvery to blue-green. The 2½"-4" cones are formed after 20 years of age with full crops occurring every two to three years. This evergreen provides seeds for birds and squirrels, and nesting, roosting, and cover for birds and animals. Browsers eat the foliage infrequently, as it is not a preferred food.

Colorado blue spruce adapts well to a wide range of soil conditions including dry, sandy to heavy clay, acidic to slightly alkaline, dry heat, full sun to partial shade, and withstands wind. Plant 8'-12' apart for windbreak. This native tree is slow-growing and long-lived, surviving up to 600 years or more in the wild.