

Leaf Identification



Norway Spruce
(*Picea abies*)

Norway spruce has a pyramidal form reaching up to 60' in height with a spread of 25'-30'. The young branches grow upward, and as the tree matures, the lower branches droop and all branches assume a slight upward sweep. Secondary branches give it a graceful appearance. The stiff, dark green needles are retained on the tree for several years before dropping. The cones are formed at about age 30 and are 4"-6" long. The seeds and tender foliage are eaten by birds and animals, and the lower drooping branches offer protective cover for larger mammals.

Norway spruce can be planted in a wide variety of sites but prefers full or partial sun, and acidic sand, loam, or clay soil that is moist and well-drained. Recommended windbreak spacing is 6'-13' between trees and 16'-25' between rows. For a hedge, shear the new shoots while the year's growth is still soft. Tiny buds on the branches will respond with growth that becomes quite dense. This spruce has a medium growth rate.