

Colorado Blue Spruce



**Arbor Day Foundation**<sup>®</sup>

211 N. 12th Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

**arborday.org**

Dear Member:

Thank you for your contribution to the Arbor Day Foundation and sharing our mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.

Your free trees are my way of saying thanks. They have arrived in a bundle. A leaf identification key is on the back of this letter to help you identify each individual tree after you have unbundled them. Complete planting and transplanting instructions are in the enclosed *Tree Planting Guide*. You may contact Member Services if you have any questions about your trees. More complete information about each tree can be found in *The Tree Book* or in the online Tree Guide at **arborday.org**.

We want your tree planting experience to be successful. These trees are guaranteed to grow. If they don't, send your name and address and member number, if available, to the above address, and the entire packet of trees will be replaced free. Please enclose \$3.50 for shipping and handling and tell us which package of trees needs to be replaced. You may reach us by calling the toll-free number for Member Services, 1-888-448-7337, or e-mail us at **info@arborday.org**.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Allgood".

Cynthia A. Allgood  
Director of Procurement

## 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, over 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 1-1 ½" stiff, prickly needles are silvery to blue green. The 2 ½-4" cones are formed after 20 years of age with full crops occurring every 2-3 years. This evergreen provides seeds for birds and squirrels, nesting, roosting, and cover for birds and animals. Browsers eat the foliage infrequently, but 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. It prefers full sun and acidic, moist, well-drained soil. 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.