

Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*)

The Colorado Blue Spruce has a horizontal branching habit and grows taller than 75 feet in its native habitat, but is normally seen at 30 to 50 feet in landscapes. It has a spread of about 10 to 20 feet. The tree grows about twelve inches per year once established but may grow slower for several years following transplanting. New foliage emerges bright greenish blue and as they age, the needles of the Blue Spruce fade into a silvery blue.

The Blue Spruce is a tough tree that tolerates extreme cold, high winds and heavy snow. It was used by Native Americans as a traditional medicinal plant and were thought to bring good fortune. In traditional medicine, its needles were used to treat colds.

Here in New Albany, the Blue Spruce is not practical for the urban forest, it is too expensive and is susceptible to diseases and pests. If it were to be kept healthy it would block line of sight. This tree is best left as a specimen in residential landscapes.