

Alberta Spruce (*Picea glauca*)

This cultivar of the White Spruce is a dense, compact, cone-shaped, evergreen dwarf shrub with soft bright green foliage that can grow 10-12' in 30 years. Grown for its foliage, the Dwarf Alberta White Spruce does best in a cool environment. Cold winters, cool summers, and good air circulation are the optimum setting. Will not perform at its best in areas of high heat and humidity, and is intolerant of air pollutants and salt spray. It prefers alluvial soils in the full sun.

The needles, which are fragrant when crushed, have a white waxy coating. This cultivar rarely produces cones. It can be grown as a container plant, pruned to form an artistic topiary. Also makes an excellent Christmas tree. It can also be utilized in planters, in pairs by a porch entrance, along driveways or walk intersections, and in the center of beds. It has a distinctive form with its conical shape and has a formal look.

This is a relatively small tree and sees little use as a street tree here in New Albany. Spider mites are a major problem, but it needs little or no pruning. Using it along streets would also cause line of sight issues.