

Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*)

The Norway Spruce has a pyramidal habit with a strong central leader and pendulous branches. It is an evergreen gymnosperm tree that grows up to 75' tall. Juvenile growth form is elliptical-columnar, has spreading branches, and become pyramidal.

Norway Spruce has a shallow root system and prefers moderately moist, well-drained, acidic soils. It prefers a cool climate and would be best suited for a northern climate. It also dislikes heat, wet feet, and hot, dry summers with full sun to very light shade. Its texture is fine to medium, and the tree has a medium growth rate.

The Norway spruce hails from Europe. And while this species does grow in Norway, the name is a bit of a misnomer. This tree grew in Eurasia, the Black Forest and other parts of the continent long before making its way to Norway around 500 B.C.

Norway Spruce are utilized as windbreaks, specimens, accent plants, and Christmas trees. Numerous dwarf forms of this plant exist. This plant is susceptible to borers, budworms, red spiders, and spruce gall aphids. The vegetation of the Norway Spruce also poses line of sight issues, which is why Spruces are typically not suitable for the urban forest.