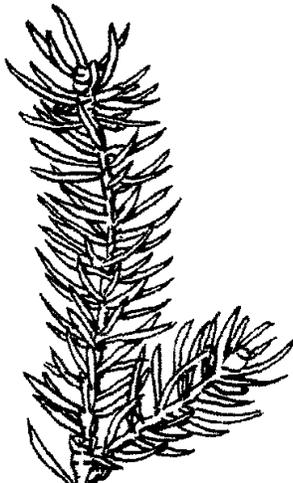


**Colorado spruce**



***Picea pungens***



**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** This is one of the most frequently planted of the conifers because of its rigid pyramidal habit, stout prickly needles and overall silvery-blue color. It is so dense that there is no view through the foliage. It is a magnificent tree but these characteristics also make it difficult to effectively use in landscaping because it is so dominant that it detracts from the rest of the plantings.

**HABIT AND SIZE:** 30-60' high (to 135' in the wild) with a spread one third as wide, strongly pyramidal when young becoming more linear pyramidal and open when older. The branches emerge horizontally covering the trunk all the way to the ground. The foliage is so dense it blocks all view of plantings to its' rear.

**LANDSCAPE VALUE:** Excellent as a specimen tree or in groupings. Best towards the rear of a large landscape. Tends to distract from other plantings if in the foreground. Becomes somewhat scraggy with age.

**LEAVES:** Emerging all around the stem but more so on the top the 4 sided sharp pointed leaves are curved and have a petiole that leaves a woody peg when they abscise. They are 0.75-1.25" long and vary in color from dull green to bluish to silvery-white and have about 6 stomatic lines on each side.

**FLOWERS:** Terminally or axillary positioned in catkin like inflorescences. Staminate flowers yellow or red consisting of numerous spirally arranged anthers with connective enlarged at apex and scale-like. Pistillate flowers greenish or purple the spirally arrange 2-ovuled scales each subtended by a small bract.

**FRUIT:** 2-4" long cylindrical ovoid or oblong cones, that are pendulous or spreading, with persistent scales. The seed has a large thin wing.

**BUD:** Broady conical to nearly spherical with a blunt apex. The scales are loosely appressed with the apex often reflexed and the lowest ones keeled and long pointed. Not resinous.

**DISEASES AND INSECTS:** Spruce gall aphid, budworm, spider mite and *Cytospora* canker.

**HARDINESS AND RANGE:** Zones 2-7. Western United States.

**CULTIVARS:** 'Thompsenii'- one of the best, 'Montgomery'- a dwarfbush form, 'Bakeri'- a very dwarf form.