

Plant Profiles: HORT 2242 Landscape Plants II
SPRUCE CONE COMPARISON

Botanical Name: *Picea abies*, *Picea glauca*, *Picea omorika*, *Picea pungens*

Common Name: Norway spruce, white spruce, Serbian spruce, Colorado spruce

Family Name: Pinaceae – pine family

Resources Consulted:

Dirr, Michael A. *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses*. Champaign: Stipes, 2009. Print.

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Keywords/Tags: tree, conifer, cone, evergreen, *Picea*



Cone:

- Description: *Picea* cones are often erect when first forming and pendulous at maturity. The size, shape, color and texture of the cones of *Picea* confirm the identity of the species. Even the scale margin features can be important. Utilizing *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses* by Michael Dirr (or other reputable source) study the botanical descriptions of spruce cones to become proficient in species identification.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: March 28, 2011
- Image File Name: picea_cones_1270356.png



Cone: *Picea abies*

- Description: *Picea abies* has the longest cones of any spruce species used in the Chicago area. The pendulous cones are 4-6 inches long. Cones of almost spruces go through purple-green-brown color phases and may be highly ornamental when first forming.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: July 23, 2008
- Image File Name: norway_spruce_2426.png



Cone: *Picea abies*

- Description: The mature cone of *Picea abies* is a great identification feature. Notice the size, shape and light brown color. The cone scales are stiff and slightly leathery.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: August 29, 2008
- Image File Name: norway_spruce_3050.png



Cone: *Picea glauca*

- Description: The slender, cylindrical cones of *Picea glauca*, are small, especially in comparison with the cones of *Picea pungens* with which *Picea glauca* can sometimes be confused.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: February 1, 2011
- Image File Name: white_spruce_1250035.png



Cone: *Picea omorika*

- Description: *Picea omorika* cones are produced at the tip of new growth. They are small, only 1.25 – 1.75 inches long and oblong in shape. They go through a violet, dark blue to almost black phase before maturing a cinnamon brown color. Cones will always be a good identification feature on any conifer.
- Image Source: Karren Wcisel, TreeTopics.com
- Image Date: February 15, 2011
- Image File Name: serbian_spruce_1250724.png



Cone: *Picea pungens*

- Description: The tan, papery cones of *Picea pungens* serve as an excellent identification tool.
- Image Source: USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Herman, D.E., et al. 1996. *North Dakota tree handbook*. USDA NRCS ND State Soil Conservation Committee; NDSU Extension and Western Area Power Administration, Bismarck.
- Image Date: Unknown
- Image File Name: pipu_016_php.jpg