

White Spruce

Picea glauca

White spruce is a common wildlife tree. They have short, stiff needles and approximately 2-inch-long cones. These trees provide important habitat and winter cover for moose, bears, hares, grouse, hawks, and songbirds. White spruce make great windbreak trees, are popular Christmas trees when young, and transplant easily, making them popular for planting. The wood is used to make paper, as well as lumber for furniture, canoe paddles, and other products.

Height: 60' to 80', occasionally up to 100'

Young white spruce grows several inches per year. White spruce reach their maximum height between 50-100 years of age.

Planting environment:

Soil: sand, sandy loam, or clay loam soils, will tolerate clay.

Soil moisture: Moist, well-drained soil

Sunlight: Likes full sun (6 hours per day) but tolerates some shade (4-6 hours of sun per day)

White spruce doesn't like intense competition from other trees. Consider clearing existing vegetation and tilling or harrowing the site before planting.

Plant seedlings 10'-15' apart.

Maintenance:

Mature trees can grow to a spread of 20', so thin white spruce as they mature to keep them healthy and avoid spreading diseases. Keep an eye out for disease and manage accordingly, including removing a sickening tree. White spruce grows slowly, so manage competition from taller plants.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Spruce budworm
2. Deer/hare (seedlings)

