Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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(410) 798-5000 | HomesteadGardens.com

The Blues Colorado Blue Spruce

Picea pungens 'The Blues'



The Blues Colorado Blue Spruce
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Blue Colorado Spruce;Colorado Blue Spruce

Description:

A small slow-growing accent tree with gracefully pendulous branches and fine bright blue needles; can be trained to grow upright or in a spreading form, and may reach 6ft in 10 years; makes a stunning visual impact in the landscape

Ornamental Features

The Blues Colorado Blue Spruce is primarily valued in the landscape for its highly ornamental weeping form. It has attractive steel blue evergreen foliage which emerges silvery blue in spring. The needles are highly ornamental and remain steel blue throughout the winter. The rough gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.



The Blues Colorado Blue Spruce foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

The Blues Colorado Blue Spruce is a dense evergreen tree with a rounded form and gracefully weeping branches. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree. When pruning is necessary, it is recommended to only trim back the new growth of the current season, other than to remove any dieback. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

The Blues Colorado Blue Spruce is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

The Blues Colorado Blue Spruce will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species.