Gentry's Gem Blue Spruce

Picea pungens 'Gentry's Gem'



Gentry's Gem Blue Spruce foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Blue Colorado Spruce;Colorado Blue Spruce

Description:

A shrub with a short, flat triangular habit, very unlike the species; features dusty blue-green pointy needles, slow growing and tends to mound; durable and hardy, an excellent choice for detail use in the garden

Ornamental Features

Gentry's Gem Blue Spruce is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its interestingly mounded form. It has attractive bluish-green evergreen foliage which emerges silvery blue in spring. The needles are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Gentry's Gem Blue Spruce is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub. 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.

Gentry's Gem Blue Spruce is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Planting & Growing

Gentry's Gem Blue Spruce will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 60 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. 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.