Wellspire Black Spruce

Picea mariana 'Wellspire'

Height: 25 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3

Description:

A more columnar selection, which features fine, dark bluish-green needles and a spire-like crown; small dark purple cones turn reddish brown and persist for years; faster growing than the species; site with some wind shelter; tolerates wet sites

Ornamental Features

Wellspire Black Spruce is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has attractive silvery blue-variegated dark green foliage which emerges bluish-green in spring. The needles are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter. The deep purple fruits which fade to brown over time are held in cones from late summer to late fall. The shaggy gray bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Wellspire Black Spruce is a dense evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. It lends an extremely fine and delicate texture to the landscape composition which can make it a great accent feature on this basis alone.

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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Wellspire Black Spruce is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Mass Planting



Wellspire Black Spruce foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Wellspire Black Spruce
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Wellspire Black Spruce will grow to be about 25 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This is a selection of a native North American species.