Blue Thunderbolt™ Spruce

Picea glauca var. densata 'Charlie J. Nickel'



Blue Thunderbolt Spruce
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 35 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Picea densata

Description:

A spire-like evergreen, tall and broad, with bluish-green needles; more densely branched and fuller than the species; very tough and adaptable, makes a wonderful vertical accent for the larger home landscape; ideal as a windbreak, or in a shelterbelt

Ornamental Features

Blue Thunderbolt Spruce is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has silvery blue-variegated bluish-green foliage which emerges light green in spring. The needles remain bluish-green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Blue Thunderbolt Spruce is a dense evergreen tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

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.

Blue Thunderbolt Spruce is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Planting & Growing

Blue Thunderbolt Spruce will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 35 feet. It has a low canopy, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 90 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. 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.