Snake Branch Spruce

Picea abies 'Virgata'

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 12 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Norwegian Spruce

Description:

This interesting variety has long main branches that have few or no lateral branches; long dark green needles on very thick stems and branches; features a tall conical shape and is a superior choice for its vigor and hardiness

Ornamental Features

Snake Branch Spruce is primarily valued in the landscape for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It has rich green evergreen foliage which emerges light green in spring. The needles remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Snake Branch Spruce is an open evergreen tree with a strong central leader and an upright spreading habit of growth. 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. 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.

Snake Branch Spruce is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent



Snake Branch Spruce
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Snake Branch Spruce foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Snake Branch Spruce will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a slow 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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 selected variety of a species not originally from North America.