Golden Black Spruce

Picea mariana 'Aurea'



Golden Black Spruce in spring
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 feet

Spread: 8 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Black Hills Spruce

Description:

An attractive dense and compact form of the black spruce with small steel blue needles with gold overtones on the newer growth; ideal for use in a garden composition, especially in a miniaturized setting

Ornamental Features

Golden Black Spruce is a dwarf conifer which is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It has attractive gold-variegated bluish-green foliage which emerges steel blue in spring. The tiny needles are highly ornamental and remain bluish-green throughout the winter.



Golden Black Spruce foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Golden Black Spruce is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with 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 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Golden Black Spruce is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Vertical Accent
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Golden Black Spruce will grow to be about 10 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 8 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, 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 shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. 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. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. 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 in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species.