

# Norway Spruce

Who am I?

**Norway Spruce** (*Picea abies*), is a large conifer whose primary branches are slightly upturned but secondary branches become pendulous as the tree matures. Branches are clad with spirally-arranged, four-sided, needle-like, deep green leaves which are attached at their bases to tiny pegs. Cylindrical seed-bearing cones (to 9" long) are pendulous.

Where can you find me?

Norway Spruce, is native to the mountains of northern and central Europe, but it was introduced and is now naturalized in the northeastern United States. They live in either pure or mixed stand moist forests, lowlands, or mountains.

What Ecological Services do I provide?

Like all trees, Norway Spruce trees take in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), release oxygen by way of photosynthesis, and store carbon in their trunks.

Norway Spruce seedlings are highly preferred winter browse for Snowshoe Hares and other animals such as deer will browse spruce foliage, but it is not a highly preferred food source for wildlife. Norway Spruce does provide important winter cover for leaves, species of wildlife and nesting opportunities for birds. Ruffed Grouse eat spruce leaves and the seeds are consumed by a number of birds and small mammals.

Norway Spruce has been planted for windbreaks and shelterbelts and is widely planted for Christmas trees. Norway Spruce resin has been used to make pitch, and the twigs used to make turpentine. The twigs and needles were used to make antiscorbutic and diuretic beverages. Norway spruce wood is widely used for construction, pulp, furniture, and musical instruments.

My name is Fangorn. You can find me on the Blue Trail



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