Picea mariana

Black Spruce

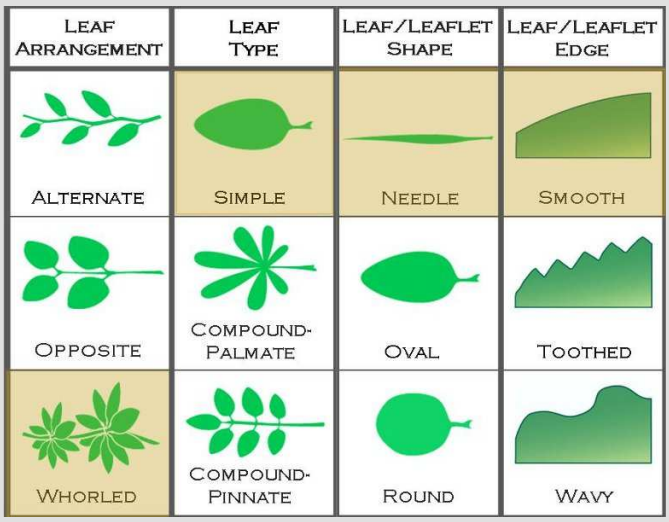
Native to Maine

Upland
Forests, Swamps, and Bogs

Leaves

Wiki Commons user Arthur Chapman

Look for four-sided needles that are stiff, up to 2 cm long, and have blunt pointed tips. The needles are dark blueish green on the top side and paler colored on the bottom side. The needles leave the stems in whorls.



Plant

Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service

Look for a tree that is evergreen (has needles year-round) and coniferous (cone bearing). This tree has a narrow conelike shape and reaches up to 20 m tall.

Stem

Keith Kanoti, Maine Forest Service

Look for bark that is thin and gray-brown or red-brown in color. Black Spruce bark is broken into irregular scales, which are arranged closely to each other.

Seasonal Change

Wiki Commons user Arthur Chapman

Look for flowers in the spring. Male flowers are red and turn brownish yellow after releasing pollen. The female flowers are upright cones that are purple to greenish.

Similar Species

Black Spruce resembles White Spruce in shape and size. Look at cones, needles, and location to tell them a part. Black Spruce has shorter needles and smaller more rounded cones than White Spruce and Black Spruce is more likely to grow in wet lowland areas.

Fun Fact

The Spruce Grouse is a ground bird that lives in spruce and fir forests. In the winter it eats mostly the needles of spruce trees and other conifers. In the summer they eat conifer needles, leaves, berries, flowers, insects, snails, and fungi.

Researched and created by: Rebecca Martin

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