

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.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 NEEDLE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

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 apart. 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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