

THE SPRUCE

(By Dorians, 4th grade – Riga Lithuanian Secondary school)

I really like the spruce tree because it is a Christmas tree. Every year, my family takes home this tree from the forest or decorates it in the forest with fruit and vegetables so that the animals in the forest can eat it. Therefore, I decided to summarize some facts about the spruce.



The spruce (latin. *Picea*) is an evergreen conifer of the pine family with short, blue-green, waxy leaves called needles. The waxy coating on the needles helps evergreen trees conserve water during the very cold winters where they live, when soil water is frozen and not available for the trees to use.

Interesting facts about spruce:

- ▲ Spruces are **pyramidal trees** with whorled branches and thin, scaly bark.
- ▲ There are about **35 species** of spruce in the world.
- ▲ The spruce is a **conifer**, which means that it produces seed cones instead of flowers.
- ▲ Each spruce tree carries male and female **cones**.
- ▲ It grows slowly and is easily killed by fire.
- ▲ Spruces are large trees and most species grow to the height **of 15 to 60 meters**.
- ▲ Spruce trees grow in a **variety of colors**, including yellow and silvery blue.
- ▲ The fresh shoots of many spruces are a natural source of **vitamin C**.
- ▲ Spruce is useful as a **building wood**.
- ▲ Spruce is the standard **material** used in soundboards **for many musical instruments**.
- ▲ Spruce is one of the most important woods **for paper uses**, as it has long wood fibres which bind together to make strong paper.
- ▲ Spruces are popular **ornamental trees** in horticulture.
- ▲ Spruces are also extensively used as **Christmas trees**.
- ▲ Spruce tree is a **symbol of nobility, generosity and peace**.

Information resources:

- ▲ <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/biome/seedspruce.php>
- ▲ <https://justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-spruce-trees/>