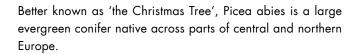


#### Picea abies

### Norway Spruce / European Spruce



It is the most commonly planted spruce across Europe and also widely used in Northern America and Canada where it has partially naturalised. It is one of the conifers which can tolerate warmer, humid summer weather.

Fast growing when young and slowing with maturity, the shoots and branches of Picea abies are covered in short sharp needles, quadrangular and dark green with white dotted lines, joined to the branches with a short woody 'peg'.

Both male and female flowers are produced on the same plant in Spring. The females once fertilised produce reddish-brown cones up to 15cm in length, the largest of any Spruce species, which hang below the stems.



3-4m feathered Picea abies, complete with festive snow

## **Plant Profile**

Name: Picea abies

Common Name: Norway Spruce

Family: Pinaceae

Height: 40-50m

**Demands:** Grows best on deep, moist, fertile soils. Drought can lead to dieback in the crown. Does not tolerate salt, pollution or calcareous sites.

Foliage: Short stiff needles surround the stems

Fruit: Red-brown cones ripen in Autumn

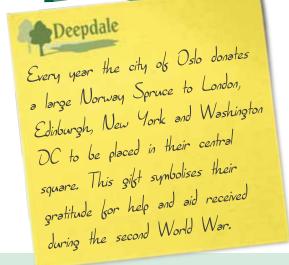


Short, spiky needles of Norway Spruce

# Deepdale

### Picea abies

### Norway Spruce / European Spruce





# Uses for Norway Spruce

**Fresh shoot tips** - used medicinally for syrup, teas, baths, inhalation and ointments. Can also to make spruce beer (which some may still consider medicinal)

**Resin** - Historically used for turpentine and pitch.

Cones - an important food source for red squirrels.

**Wood** - With a straight grain and easily workable, the woods can be used for furniture, musical instruments (particularly guitars), chipboard and paper. It absorbs preservatives well so can be also be used for external joinery, rafters, joists etc.



2-3m feathered Norway Spruce



Close up of needles



Norway Spruce clipped into balls



Semi-mature Picea abies, 5-6m height