


black spruce [Pinaceae](#) *Picea mariana* (Mill.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.  symbol: PIMA

vTree

Leaf: Evergreen, four-sided needles, stiff, 1/4 to 1/2 inch long, light blue-green in color, somewhat blunt pointed tips, light blue-green to gray.

Flower: Species is monoecious; males red, turning yellow to light brown; females purple, upright, and in the upper crowns.

Fruit: Ovoid cones are the smallest of the spruces, 1 inch long, scale margins are rounded and finely erose; maturing in late summer with seeds disseminating in early fall.

Twig: Slender, brown and pubescent; needles are borne on woody pegs; buds are small, gray-brown with loose scales.

Bark: Thin, gray-brown or red-brown in color, broken into irregular, close scales.

Form: Small to medium sized trees up to 70 feet tall with a very narrow conical or spire-like crown and a poorly pruned trunk.

Looks like: [white spruce](#) - [red spruce](#) - [Sitka spruce](#) - [blue spruce](#)



Additional Range Information:
Picea mariana is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting black spruce.](#)

External Links:
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)
[Landowner Factsheet](#)
[USDA Plants Database](#)

© Copyright 2012, Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, all rights reserved.

Photos and Text by: John Seiler, Edward Jensen, Alex Niemiera, and John Peterson.