



Picea abies



Height	25 - 35 (50) m, fast growing
Crown	narrow pyramidal to column-shaped, half-open crown
Bark and branches	bark grey, peeling off in sheets, twigs reddish-brown
Leaf	pointy needles, glossy dark green, 1.5 - 2.5 cm, evergreen
Flowers	unremarkable, upright, light pink, from red to yellow, April/May
Fruits	hanging, cylindrical cones, 10 - 15 cm long
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	loamy, moisture-retentive and acidic
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	3 (-40,0 to -24,5 °C)
Wind resistance	moderate
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Application	parks, cemeteries, large gardens, windbreaks
Shape	specimen conifer
Origin	Northern and Central Europe

Large tree with a straight trunk and regular branching pattern. The branches grow practically horizontally or bend slightly and have upward-pointing ends. The crown is narrow pyramidal to column-shaped. If the tree has ample free space around it, the lower branches remain green. Its ultimate width is approx. 8 m. Pollen colours the red, male flowers yellow: the female flowers are light pink. The hanging cones are 10 - 15 cm long and about 3 - 4 cm wide. Squirrels love the ripe cones. The tree does not grow as well in sunny, dry sites. The Norway spruce is often cultivated for Christmas trees, as well as being important in forestry. It tolerates pruning well and so it is excellently suited for use as a hedge. There are many cultivars: very many miniatures have been produced from what is known as witches' brooms.