

BLACK SPRUCE



A. Identification	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leaves ---look like a needle but are not sharp; and are dull grayish green <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---lines of white dots on under surface ---needles are set along the twig 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cones ---seed cones are small and purplish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---old cones hang on trees for several years ---pollen cones are dark red 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bark ---reddish brown/grayish brown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---thin, scaly or shredded when young and become darker with large scales when older 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wood ---is a creamy white / straw color with a straight grain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---wood dries easily with little or no cracking 	
B. Climate /habitat / location:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grows in poor, growing conditions such as wet, soggy areas such as swamps and bogs, or in areas where only tamaracks grow • on the northward side it grows with Jack Pine, White Spruce, Balsam Fir, White Birch and Trembling Aspen 	
C. Growing Characteristics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in areas where the water doesn't drain well trees grow up to 20 m high and 30 cm wide (small trees) • on well drained sites trees grow up to 30 m high and 60 cm wide • roots are very shallow 	
D. Reproduction:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by seed and by the layering of plants 	
E. Uses:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • traditional---Carrier people used black spruce wood to make fish traps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---other aboriginal people made snowshoe frames and drying racks ---dry resin from the tree was used on wounds to help healing 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modern ---good for making paper products 	

F. Fun Facts:

- red squirrels remove cones from the top of the tree which makes the top of the tree branches fat and thick
- tree leaves are used for perfume and for making spruce beer
- spruce grouse feed only on spruce needles in winter

Bibliography:

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