



## Picea abies



|                              |                                                                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Height</b>                | 25 - 35 (50) m, fast growing                                         |
| <b>Width</b>                 | 8-10m                                                                |
| <b>Crown</b>                 | narrow pyramidal to column-shaped, half-open crown                   |
| <b>Bark and branches</b>     | bark grey, peeling off in sheets, twigs reddish-brown                |
| <b>Leaf</b>                  | pointy needles, glossy dark green, 1.5 - 2.5 cm, evergreen           |
| <b>Flowers</b>               | unremarkable, ♀ upright, light pink, ♂ from red to yellow, April/May |
| <b>Fruits</b>                | hanging, cylindrical cones, 10 - 15 cm long                          |
| <b>Spines/thorns</b>         | None                                                                 |
| <b>Toxicity</b>              | usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock              |
| <b>Soil type</b>             | loamy, moisture-retentive and acidic                                 |
| <b>Paving</b>                | tolerates no paving                                                  |
| <b>Winter hardiness zone</b> | 3 (-40,0 to -24,5 °C)                                                |
| <b>Wind resistance</b>       | moderate                                                             |
| <b>Other resistances</b>     | resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)                                        |
| <b>Shape</b>                 | specimen conifer                                                     |
| <b>Origin</b>                | 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.