



Picea pungens 'Koster'



Height	10 - 15 m
Width	3-5m
Crown	narrow pyramidal, dark, dense crown
Bark and branches	bark greyish black, scaled, twigs glossy orange-brown
Leaf	stiff, pointy needles, silvery blue, 2 - 3 cm, evergreen
Flowers	unremarkable
Fruits	hanging, cylindrical cones, 4 - 10 cm long
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	nutrient-rich, moisture-retentive, preferably not too acidic
Soil moisture	suitable for dry soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	4 (-34,4 to -28,9 °C)
Wind resistance	moderate
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Fauna tree	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), provides food for birds
Application	tree containers, roof gardens, industrial areas
Shape	clearstem tree, specimen conifer
Origin	A. Koster, Boskoop, Netherlands, 1880

Old cultivar of *Picea pungens* with needles a striking bluish grey colour. This colour is less intense than the colour of the needles of the more recent cultivar 'Hoopsii'. It becomes a broad, pyramidal tree with more or less horizontal branching arranged close together. The tree can grow to approx. 10 - 15 m in height and remains about 5 m in width. In its juvenile stage, it often doesn't have a main trunk that grows vertically, rendering support necessary. As it matures, it grows uniformly. The trunk is greyish brown and later greyish black and deeply scaled. The twigs have no hair and are orange-brown. The intensely silvery blue colour of the stiff, very pointy, closely grouped needles is striking. Its long, cylindrical cones are green at first and turn yellowish brown as they ripen. Makes little demands when it comes to soil type but does require a sunny site. Tolerates more dryness than other spruces.