

WHITE SPRUCE

Picea glauca

Evergreen. Medium to large tree usually 50-60 feet tall in the East, 70-90 feet tall in the West. A low creeping form may be found at tree line. Crown broadly conic to spire-like, branches slightly drooping. Alternate names like Skunk Spruce and Cat Spruce refer to the pungent smell of crushed needles. The needles are 1/2" long, usually pale grayish blue-green, slightly prickly, not flattened. The mature red-brown cones are 1-1 1/4", with broad scales and a flat tip. The immature cones are purple or green. A young female cone is upright and red to purple; while a male pollen cones is yellowish and is found mostly below branches in early spring. The twigs are rather slender and pinkish brown. The bark is gray-brown and scaly.

There is only one White Spruce tucked in among some Norway Spruce along the south side of Chapel Ave., close to the 12th Street property line. Its lower limbs are bare, but its top 1/3 is green. Because of its bedraggled appearance, it is best enjoyed in the winter months when its green needle coat and its tall cone shape can be better appreciated against the winter white background.

