

Black Spruce

Picea mariana



Black spruce cones are blue-black in color when first ripe, turning to brown.

Notify State Forest Nursery at 218-364-8010 as you begin collecting cones. Call if you have any questions.

- Begin collecting after September 15th.
- Cones must be collected as singles, not in clusters.
- Ripe cones will be blue-black in color, turning to brown before opening.
- The Nursery will not purchase cones that have begun opening.
- Black spruce cones can partially open while on the tree and lose seeds. Make sure cones still contain seed by slicing a few open, assuring there are at least 4 seeds per cut face.



Sliced cones should have 4 or more full seeds per cut face.

- Cones should be clean, with less than 5% needles when presented for purchase. “Pick clean, no green.”
- Seed collection stations may refuse dirty cones, asking collectors to clean them and bring them back.
- Fill gunnysacks to only half full to allow for cooling and handling. It’s best to use a container that allows air to enter – not plastic bags.