

Black Spruce

Picea mariana



Forestry offices should notify State Forest Nursery at 218-652-2385 as they begin collecting and purchasing cones. Call if you have ANY questions.

- It's best to collect after September 15th.
- Ripe cones will be blue-black color.
- Cones will turn from blue-black to brown and then begin opening.
- We can not purchase cones that have begun opening.
- Cones must be collected as singles, not clusters.
- Cones should be cleaned free of needles before purchasing. A little is acceptable (less than 5%)
- Cones are semi-serotinous, and can stay closed well into next spring. Make sure cones have not opened and then re-closed.
- Sliced cones should have 4 or more full seeds per cut face.
- Collection stations are instructed not to pay less per bushel for dirty cones. they will have collectors clean them and bring them back, or estimate %trash and reduce volume they're buying. If 1 bushel is 20% trash by volume it's only 0.8 bu. They won't buy dirty cones more than once per collector.
- Fill gunny sacks to only half full to allow for cooling and handling.