

# Variegated Black Hills Spruce



An excellent specimen in landscape borders, home foundation plantings and rock gardens, or grow it in a pot that can be kept on patios,

decks and around other outdoor sitting and living spaces. A captivating photogenic beauty that is sure to be a conversation piece.

## *Picea mariana 'Aureovariegata'*

- **Use:** This evergreen sports blue-green needles with bright, eye-catching gold colored new growth. More mature specimens may have purplish cones that turn brown as they age. Quite slow growing, reaching only about 5' in 10 years. This tree can have issues in Middle Ga (happier in NE GA) so please only buy if you have the perfect spot or are willing to gamble.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Choose a site that gets morning sunshine and light afternoon shade. The site should have a slight slope, to help water move away from the roots. Use a shovel to loosen the soil twelve inches deep in a planting area eight feet across. Remove one third of the soil in the area and replace it with gritty sand, such as paver leveling sand. Thoroughly mix it into the soil. If the soil was mostly clay to begin with, mix in four cubic feet of soil amendment.
- **Growth:** Slow growing; reaches 35 ft. tall, 10 ft. wide.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 2-8; Shrub Protect from summer sun in Zone 7/8.
- **Foliage:** Evergreen. In spring its soft new growth emerges creamy yellow transitioning to a glowing creamy white as it ages, which is a wonderful contrast with the short and thick gray-blue needles of the older foliage and other plants nearby.
- **Flower:** Not known for flowers. Cones purplish then gray-brown, small, 2-3 cm long and 1.5 cm thick, ovoid, nearly spherical when open; mature cones remain on a tree up to 30 years.

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