

Sitka Spruce



Needles pointed with 2 white lines of stomata on upper surface

Distinctive bark reddish-brown to grey-brown. The bark is broken up and scaly, looks like potato chips stuck to the tree

Sitka Spruce, Olympic Rain Forest

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PNW Native Plant

Picea sitchensis

Conifer found from sea level to 1000ft elevation

Unique Bark

Restoration and Landscape Uses:

Sitka Spruce prefers moist conditions and does well in full to partial sun light. Due to the sharp needles deer tend to avoid this sapling so a good choice to plant in areas with deer. The Spruce is a great tree for wetland areas but too large for a landscape setting. The tree can grow up to 200 feet tall.



Ecology: Mostly found on moist sites, marine terraces and avalanche tracks

Cultural Uses: The roots are used to make water-tight hats and baskets and the pitch is chewed for pleasure or medicinal plasters, keeping a wound clean while healing. Roots can be heated, pounded and made into cordage. The spruce tips are edible and nutritious and used to make tea. It is considered to be uplifting and invigorating.