



Yezo spruce

(Picea jezoensis)

Family: Pinaceae
Genus: Picea
Tree height: 30–40 m

Female cones
appear at the head of
the previous year's
branches.

Male cone

Black woodpecker
(*Dryocopus martius*)
eating insects inside

leaves are
needle-shaped, with
prominent protruding
stipules sprouting at the
joints of a leaflet.

Fall

ully matured pine
nes hang down
om the tip of
anches.

Spruce beetle (*Ips typographus japonicus* Niiijima) boring a tree trunk

With drooping
branches giving
more gentle
impression
compared to
that of Todo fir

Hokkaido Squirrel
(*Sciurus vulgaris orientis*) eating a seed

Yezo spruce is a coniferous tree species growing to 40 m tall, supporting the canopy of forests in Hokkaido. Yezo spruce is selected as “the Prefectural Tree of Hokkaido.”

Let's remember the name of this tree as "It's OK (Yezo in Japanese) not to reach the sky" since Yezo spruce has branches drooping from the trunk. Although Yezo spruce can tolerate a shady environment, such environment delays the growth of young trees. To grow up a tall tree, Yezo spruce needs a sunny condition. Since Yezo spruce cannot germinate on the soil due to bacteria, the seeds landed on fallen trees and stumps. Also, Yezo spruce has a rather shallow rooting system and likes moist condition, thus it does not grow on dry land.

Yezo Spruce in People's Living

Since Yezo spruce logs are easy to be processed with straight beautiful grain pattern, they are used as materials for buildings, furniture, and music instruments, such as guitar and violin.

Also, Yezo spruce trees have long fibers, which is suitable for pulp manufacturing.

Winter

Winter buds are triangle-shaped and covered with pine resin.