



Good Sport

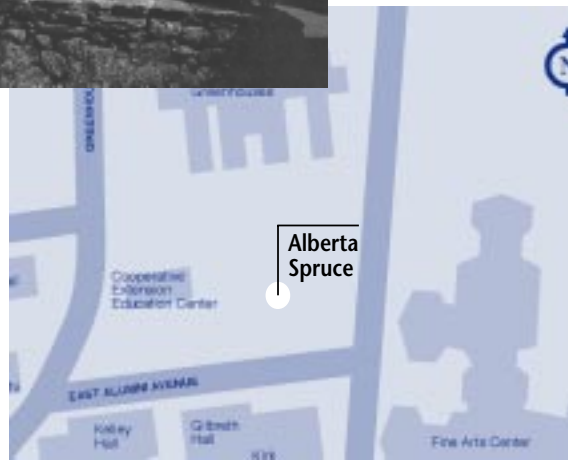
Some of the evergreen specimens on the URI campus provide wonderful examples of the differences in texture and growth between two forms of the White Spruce. The native form, *Picea glauca*, grows 60 feet in height. Its smaller dwarf variety may take 30 years to attain a height of only twelve feet due to its slow growth of two to six inches a year. This natural conical dwarf variety was found in 1904 at Lake Laggan, Alberta, Canada by J.G. Jack and Alfred Rehder of the Arnold Arboretum. It was appropriately named *Picea glauca* 'Conica.'

As children, many of us cut or dug a White Spruce to decorate at Christmas. Although it had the classic Christmas tree pyramidal shape, it was not always remembered fondly due to its four-sided needle-like leaves (ask any child who has helped put on the ornaments). While still marketed and valuable in its own right, the Dwarf Alberta Spruce is one of the most popular small evergreen varieties used in gardens and small home landscapes today. Although nature modified the Dwarf White Spruce into its conifer form, this shape and soft, dense, light green foliage is often further modified into many interesting topiary forms.

By Susan Hammen-Winn, Ph.D. '89



This photo of a URI Alberta Spruce was taken in the URI gardens in 1990. Its odd shape is due to the growth of a branch which has reverted to the original morphology of the larger White Spruce. Because the branch has such a comparatively faster growth rate, the branch has overpowered its dwarf variety.



On left: Picea Glauca White Spruce. On right: Picea Glauca 'conica' Alberta Spruce

Campus Beautification

MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT IS FOR:

- Please have someone contact me directly
- Bench with plaque \$2,500
- Bench w/plaque and landscape planting \$4,000
- Tree Cluster (four trees) w/plaque \$1,500
- Tree w/plaque \$400
- Gift for General Landscaping Purposes

A check is enclosed for: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone Number: _____

Plaque To Read: _____

Please make checks payable to:

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