

# SHUBENACADIE CANAL'S PLANT OF THE WEEK

## Red Spruce

*Picea rubens* Sarg.

Red spruce trees are a species of conifer native to eastern North America and is actually considered the provincial tree of Nova Scotia. Another name for them in the Maritime spruce. They can live anywhere between 250 to 350 years and grow 70 to 80 feet tall. They're a very high tolerance tree meaning they can live almost anywhere so long as there's lots of sunlight. Spruce trees have bright green needles that are long, round and have a sharp pointed end. New branch growth has yellowish brown bark that turns a red brown with maturity. Their bark is thin and feels a bit like scales. Chesnut brown cones are produced in summer/autumn and fall at the beginning of winter. If you still see cone on the tree during the winter, it means the tree is holding on to them until the following spring. Many animals big and small use these trees for shelter from the elements. Humans use these trees too and red spruce is one of the best woods to use for acoustic steel string guitars. Paired with twinkling lights and glowing bulbs, they're also a popular decoration around the holiday season.



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The best way to identify a spruce tree is by rolling one of their needles between your fingers. If it rolls with ease, it's a spruce!

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