

3169 – 10 Colorado Blue Spruce + Forsythia



Arbor Day Foundation™

211 N. 12th Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Member:

Thank you for your contribution to the Arbor Day Foundation and sharing our mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees.

Your free trees are my way of saying thanks. A leaf identification key and tree color code chart are on the back of this letter. Complete planting and transplanting instructions are in the enclosed *Tree Planting Guide*. You may contact Member Services if you have any questions about your trees. More complete information about each tree can be found in *The Tree Book* or on the online Tree Guide at **arborday.org**.

We want your tree planting experience to be successful. These trees are guaranteed to grow. If they don't, send your name and address and member number, if available, to the above address, and the entire packet of trees will be replaced free. Please enclose \$3.50 for shipping and handling and tell us which package of trees needs to be replaced. You may reach us by calling the toll-free number for Member Services, 1-888-448-7337, or e-mail us at **info@arborday.org**.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Allgood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia A. Allgood
Director, Procurement and Fulfillment

Leaf Identification and Color Code Chart



Colorado Blue Spruce
(*Picea Pungens*)
Pink Paint



Forsythia
(*Forsythia x Intermedia*)
Brown Paint

Colorado blue spruce has a symmetrical pyramidal form reaching 30-60' in height with a 10-20' spread under landscape conditions, over 100' in height and 30' spread in the wild. Dense branches extend to the ground when young, with age the branches begin to droop and the crown often becomes open and irregular. The 1-1 ½" stiff, prickly needles are silvery to blue green. The 2 ½-4" cones are formed after 20 years of age with full crops occurring every 2-3 years. This evergreen provides seeds for birds and squirrels, nesting, roosting, and cover for birds and animals. Browsers eat the foliage infrequently, but it is not a preferred food.

Colorado blue spruce adapts well to a wide range of soil conditions including dry, sandy to heavy clay, acidic to slightly alkaline, dry heat, full sun to partial shade, and withstands wind. It prefers full sun and acidic, moist, well-drained soil. Plant 8-12' apart for windbreak. This native tree is slow-growing and long-lived surviving up to 600 years or more in the wild.

Forsythia is an irregularly rounded shrub that reaches 8-10' in height with a spread of 10-12'. The pale to deep yellow flowers bloom early in the spring before the leaves appear. The leaves are a medium to dark green in summer turning green to yellow-green with an occasional tinge of burgundy in the fall.

Forsythia is tolerant of a wide range of soil textures and pH, moisture conditions, and air pollution. It flowers best in full sun and prefers moist, well-drained soil. Pruning should follow the natural shape the shrub removing old or dead wood. Forsythia bloom on the previous year's wood, so prune after flowering in spring. Flower buds develop during summer and fall, and fall pruning will remove them. Plant 4-6' apart for a hedge. This is a fast growing shrub.