

Caring for Your Spruce

Spruce trees are prominent evergreen conifers that grace the landscapes of Minnesota. The state is home to several spruce species, including the White Spruce, Black Spruce, and Norway Spruce. Known for their pointed needles and characteristic cone-bearing branches, spruce trees add year-round greenery to the region’s forests and gardens. They thrive in Minnesota’s diverse habitats, from the northern boreal forests to urban parks.

In the Metro are, spruce trees are slightly out of their native range, making susceptible to several common health issues and can benefit greatly from care practices that help them thrive on your property.

Common Health Issues to Look For

Tree Health Issue	Symptom You May See
Rhizosphaera (needle fungus)	Dead branches from bottom up
Spider mites	Webbing, discolored needles
Nutrient deficiency	Thin foliage



White spruce



Colorado blue spruce

Spruce Care Best Practices

Keeping your spruce trees healthy is the first step in enjoying their benefits for years to come. Urban trees endure many stressors that compromise their health. Along with regular watering and mulching, the following treatments are recommended for ultimate tree resilience.

GOOD

- Proper Watering
- Mulching
- Spider Mites Protection
- Tree Growth Regulator: Cambistat®

BETTER

- Proper Watering
- Mulching
- Spider Mites Protection
- Tree Growth Regulator: Cambistat®
- Tree Nutrition

BEST

- Proper Watering
- Mulching
- Spider Mites Protection
- Tree Growth Regulator: Cambistat®
- Tree Nutrition
- Root Enhancement Service

See back page for service descriptions.

Spruce Care Terms and Tips

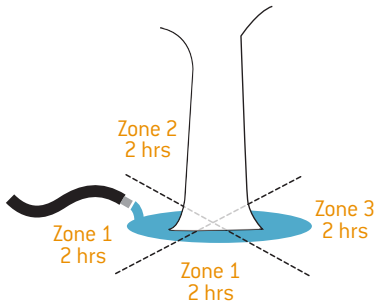
Proper Watering

After multiple years of drought conditions Minnesota trees need additional care to keep them healthy and strong. Watering is the most important way to help. Follow one of these 3 methods to keep your trees properly watered. *Repeat weekly during summer if not receiving at least 0.5" of rain.*

METHOD 1

GARDEN HOSE

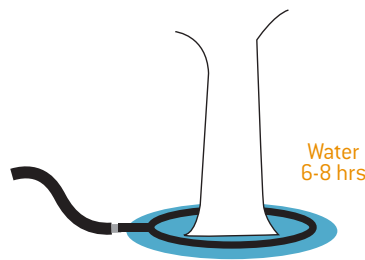
Set to trickle (more than a drip and less than a gurgle). Divide the tree area into 4 zones. Position the hose 2-3 feet from the trunk in Zone 1 and let water soak for 2 hours. Repeat for all sections.



METHOD 2

SOAKER HOSE

Wrap the hose around the base of the tree at least 1-2 feet from the trunk. Water 6-8 hours.

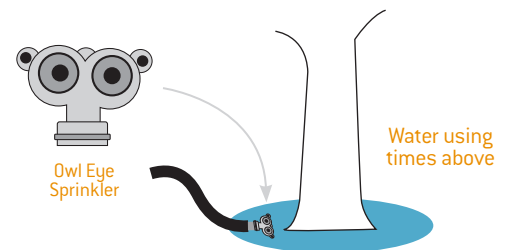


METHOD 3

OWL EYES SPRINKLER

Place under the tree about 2-3 feet from the base and water until soil feels moist, but not saturated.

- 15 minutes for a 10" diameter tree
- 20 minutes for a 15" diameter tree
- 30 minutes for a 20" or larger diameter tree



Mulching

Mulching is a way around several stressors common to our suburban and urban trees. Studies have shown that trees can grow up to five times more fine roots under mulch than they would under turf grass, which helps them find and uptake water and nutrients in the soil more efficiently.

Spide Mite Protection

Spruce spider mites feed by sucking chlorophyll out of spruce needles, and large populations can be very detrimental to the health of spruce trees. Treatments are typically done in the spring and fall when the mites are most active.

Tree Growth Regulator: Cambistat

This service increases a tree's resiliency through fine root production, stronger leaf tissue, and defense compounds to help against pests and disease.

Tree Nutrition

Our tree nutrition services provide supplemental fertilizer nutrients to improve tree health, increase resistance to pests and diseases, and better hold water and nutrients from the soil.

Root Enhancement Service

Urban trees are faced with compacted soils and poor soil conditions that they wouldn't encounter in the forest. Our Root Enhancement Service promotes root growth and improved tree health by replicating forest soils with organic matter and creating the perfect growing environment.