



## A tree of your own

### Growing a spruce tree from your seeds

#### Step 1 - Preparing your seeds

Before planting, store the seeds in a plastic bag in your freezer. After a month, remove the seeds and soak them in water for 24 hours. Put them in a wet paper towel, then back into the plastic bag and into the fridge. Leave them for another 6 weeks.

#### Step 2 - Germinating

Remove your seeds from the refrigerator. Put them in a suitable tray or container and add water but do not cover them completely. Cover the container in plastic wrap to stop the water evaporating and check regularly to ensure a consistent water level. Discard any seeds that haven't sprouted within three weeks.

#### Step 3 - Planting

Prepare 4-inch pots by washing them thoroughly. Fill your pots with potting soil and use tweezers to place your germinated seeds on top of the soil. Cover the seeds with sand.

#### Step 4 - Care

Place the pots in indirect sunlight, and water them enough to keep the soil moist. Don't saturate them as this may encourage fungus growth. You can fertilise your seedlings when they grow to be one inch tall, but be careful as too much fertiliser could kill them. After three months stop fertilising the seedlings.

#### Step 5 - Transplanting

When your seedlings have developed their second set of leaves, you can start introducing them to outdoor conditions. Make sure you place their pots in a shady place, protected from the wind. Increase the length of time they spend outside each day as time passes, but do not do this during winter.

#### Step 6 - Planting out

When your seedlings are about 12 inches tall and you can leave them outside for long periods of time, you can plant them outside. When you transplant, give them plenty of room to grow, as they can reach heights of 200 feet.

