

Blue Angel White Pine

Pinus parviflora 'Blue Angel'

BY JUDY NAUSEEF, FAPLD, ICNP

In small spaces, shrubs often grow too large and require too much maintenance over time. I have found that dwarf conifers serve the role of providing structure, year-round interest, and color to the garden here in the Midwest, where they successfully stand up to low winter temperatures and strong winter and summer winds.

Their slow growth, richly colored needles, and subtle shape changes as they mature give a garden a sense of both the past and future. They allow the designer to add garden art and exotic and native plants for a garden of many shades, from bright to dark. Although often used as specimen plants, they enhance a garden when planted as a group. Dwarf conifers add clear shapes in wonderful greens and blues to support more unrestrained perennials.

Dwarf conifers from different nurseries have varying form and needle color. My 'Blue Angel' white pine (*Pinus parviflora* 'Blue Angel') is a Monrovia plant and shows a more green than blue needle. It will be upright, but has a nice soft, rounding shape. I will do some thoughtful pruning in the future to reduce the height and keep the shape. Here, in the early summer garden, tones are understated and the dwarf pine sets the mood. It shares the scene with 'Tompá' Norway spruce (*Picea abies* 'Tompá'), a dwarf upright Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) and Green Mountain boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Green Mountain'). The succulent leaves of the groundcover plants, Angelina stonecrop (*Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina'), echo the arrangement of the spruce needles.



PHOTOGRAPH AND DESIGN
BY JUDY NAUSEEF



Judy Nauseef, FAPLD, is an award-winning landscape designer and a garden writer. She owns her own business, **Judy Nauseef Landscape Design**, in Iowa City, Iowa, where she designs and manages installations of primarily residential landscapes. She writes for *Iowa Gardener* magazine and will have a book, *Using Native Plants in Gardens in the Upper Midwest*, published by the University of Iowa Press in spring 2016.

USDA HARDINESS ZONES: 4-9

SIZE: 7-8' H x 3-4' W

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS:

Full sun. Once established, needs only occasional watering.