

# I Stroll the World Over Looking for Beauty

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It has many faces, and it is that polyphony of shapes and colors that fascinates me. The sense for beauty is a common heritage of the human and sets him above the other beings. It is the nature of things.

And it is things of Nature we like, be it mountains, meadows, sun rises, day-breaks, high summer night's sky with sparkling stars, dew, winds, woods, or waters. We admire the big. Yet we prefer the small for our private happiness, that

which we can hold, keep, possess for which our love is reserved! Dwarf conifers belong to that category.

In Czechoslovakia there exists quite a few prominent "little woodies" of local providence deserving world-wide fame. Let me introduce you to one of them.

The photo shows **Picea abies** 'Zdena', a genetic mutant found near Chvalcov village (in the Olomouc region of CSSR) in May, 1968, by a friend of mine.



***Picea abies* 'Zdena'**

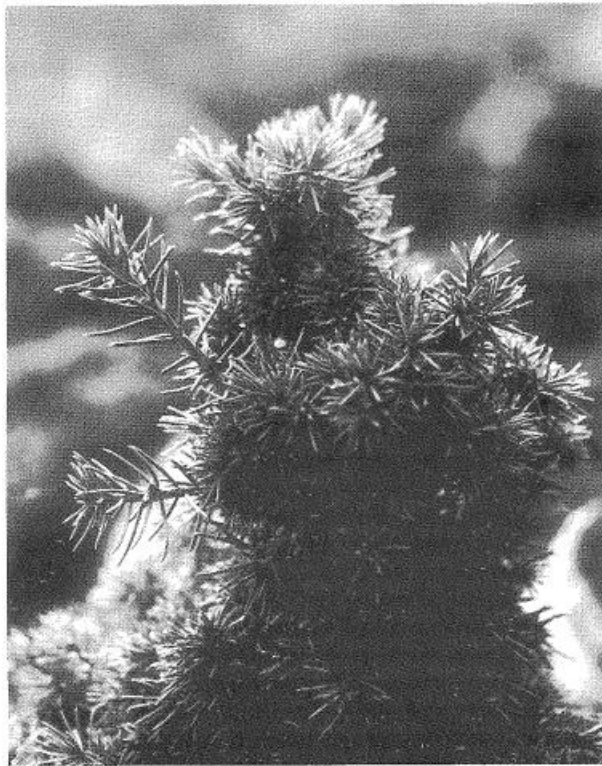
Its present size is 54cm high and 47cm wide with a trunk diameter at ground level of 3.4cm.

In 17 years, since replanting into the garden, it has grown a third of its total height so it is reliably dwarf. Never trained, it has an irregularly conical shape caused by occasional stronger shoots which appear on the plant. The following year any long shoot will fill in with weak, short twigs grown from multiple buds.

This touch of irregularity lends an air of nonchalant elegance and fits in per-

fectly in a small, wild rockery in smaller gardens as it lacks the noble impeccability of "albertiana conica" or the somewhat artificial look of bushy spruce forms like 'Nidiformis' and 'Pumila Nigra' that are better suited for lawns or architecturally arrange rock gardens.

The color of this pretty dwarf spruce is midgreen with a slight greyish sheen. The twigs are short (1-2cm) with several buds; the leaves are .3 to .5cm long. Occasional strong shoots are up to 7cm long with needles 1.5 to 2.3cm long.



Detail of *Picea abies* 'Zdena' showing the leaf structure.