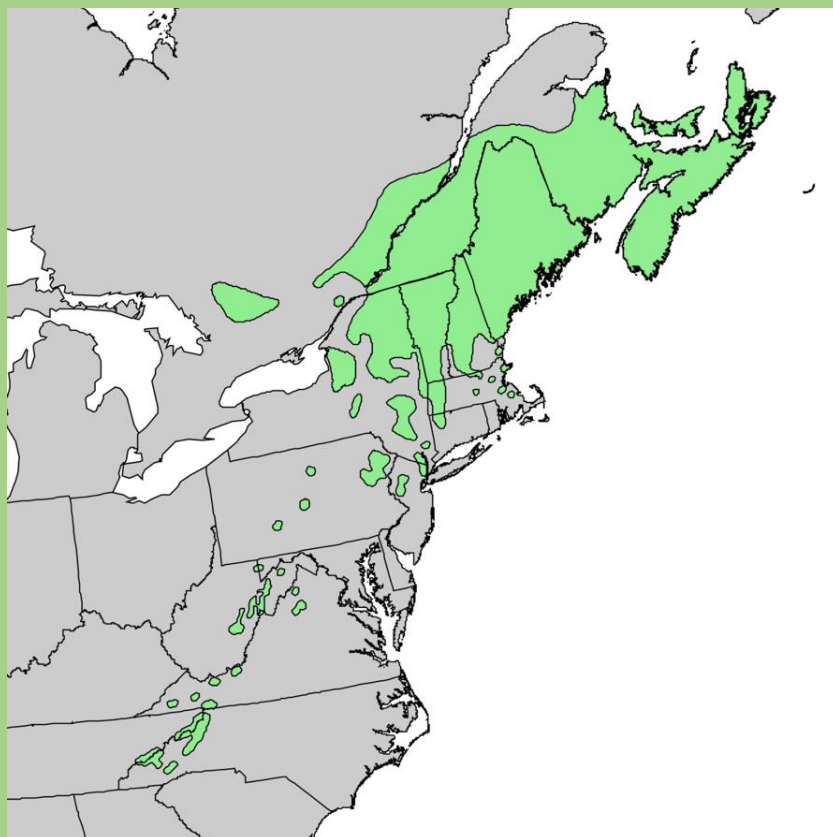


Red Spruce

Picea rubens



The red spruce is a medium sized evergreen conifer that thrives best in cooler boreal environments. Its range stretches from the maritime provinces of Canada down to the northeastern US, with scattered populations along the southern Appalachians. It is a long-lived tree, reaching upwards of 325 years old, and growing 60-75 feet at maturity. Compared to other spruce species, the branches become more sparsely placed as the tree grows taller, making its top more opened branched. Its needles are a yellowish green tint and grow to about half an inch. Its reddish-brown, cylindrical cones are small, reaching a length of about 1.5-2 inches. The bark similarly is grayish brown and scaly. Within its range, it is an important staple for wildlife, providing food and shelter to many species year-round. It's also important commercially, particularly with lumber, pulpwood, and even different instruments like piano sounding boards.