



Abies alba



Height	30-50 m
Crown	narrow conical, half-open crown
Bark and branches	twigs green-grey to yellow-grey, bark gray (brown), long smooth, later flaking in small plates
Leaf	stiff, spirally set, slightly forward, glossy dark green, underside with two lenticel stripes, 2 - 3 cm long
Flowers	green-yellow with purple-red, 2.0 cm, green, June
Fruits	cylindrical cones, 10 - 15 cm long and 3 - 5 cm wide, light brown to reddish brown
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	clayed soil, sandy soil
Paving	tolerates no paving
Winter hardiness zone	4 (-34,4 to -28,9 °C)
Wind resistance	good
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind
Shape	specimen conifer

Abies alba is a very large conifer that grows vigorously at a young age. The crown is initially pyramidal but later becomes ovoid. In older age, the top of the crown is flattened. Abies alba can easily reach a height of more than 30 m. The grey-brown bark remains smooth for a long time and only later in life the bark loosens in small plates and the base of the trunk becomes slightly grooved. The needles are spirally implanted on the twigs, but are often bent at the top and bottom of the twigs in such a way that they appear to be more or less in one plane.

The wood is used in plywood and as veneer. Yet the tree is not often cultivated as a wood producer because it is quite susceptible to insect pests in monocultures. In the 17th century, wood from A. alba was used to make ship masts.

This Abies is suitable for use in parks and large gardens. It grows in all neutral to calcareous soils if well-drained. The tree tolerates some drought.