

Spruce Seeds

Collect: Find a forested area with white spruce trees. Try looking on a south facing hillside with mixed birch and aspen trees. Keep an eye out for spruce cones. When you see them, pick a few and gently place them in a Ziploc bag. Shorter spruce trees alongside a sunny trail may have more cones within reach.

Experiment: At home, let the spruce cones dry out. When they are dry, gently shake the cones and see the seeds fall out! Many seeds inside the cones will have already dispersed, but you may find a few still nestled in. If the seeds fall from a few feet above the ground, they will fly like little helicopters, their wings spinning above the seed. Try launching the seeds again and again!

Try This: Take a closer look at your seeds with a magnifying glass! What do you notice? How do the wings look different from aspen wings? (Copters)

