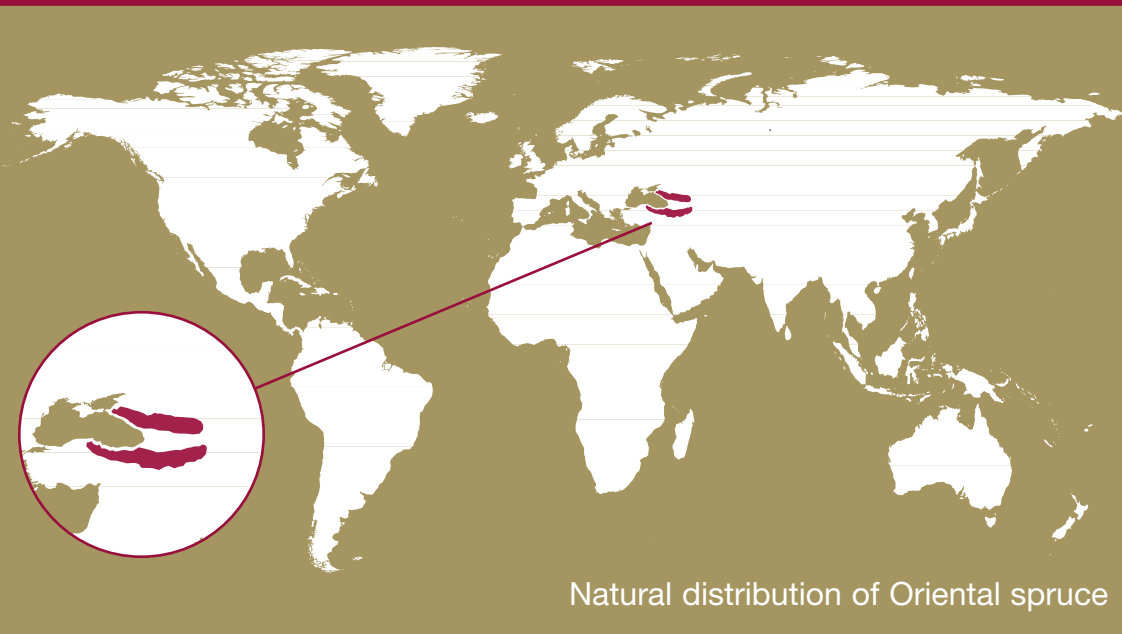


# Oriental spruce *Picea orientalis*



Collecting seed from an Oriental spruce growing wild in Turkey.



Natural distribution of Oriental spruce



illustrations by John White

You can easily identify the Oriental spruce by looking for the very short, dark green needles pressed against the branches.

## A stitch in time...

This beautiful tree is quite common in the wild at the moment. However, in 50 years' time pressures such as agriculture and climate change could make it much rarer.

At the National Pinetum we're taking steps to preserve the Oriental spruce now, before things get worse. We have collected seeds from wild populations in Turkey, and we are sharing them with other botanic gardens world-wide. Not many people have collected seed from this tree before - most seed collectors head for more exotic places in search of rarer plants. However, we think that helping to protect this tree now may save problems later on.

Cultivated Oriental spruces are popular ornamental trees because they have attractive foliage and they grow happily on a range of soils. They are sometimes grown for timber which is used for pulp, construction and furniture.

## Did you know?

The young shoot tips of this tree can be brewed to make a refreshing tea, rich in Vitamin C.