

USE OF SELF - COMPATIBILITY FOR SEED ORCHARDS

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Individual trees of Colorado blue spruce (Picea pungens Engelm.) were evaluated for the combined characters of blue coloration, self-incompatibility, and cross-compatibility. Progenies of 10-year-old plants from three hybrid combinations demonstrated that one combination produced almost 60percent "intense blue"seedlings as compared with 39 and 20 percent for the other two progenies. Grafted plants of the two highest combining parents, one of which is self-incompatible, will be planted in adjacent rows of an isolated crossing block for the mass production of hybrid seed by natural pollination.

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