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Mr. John Doe
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Condition Assessment

Species: one Colorado spruce, *Picea pungens* (non-native)

Height: 9.4m DBH: 28cm

Age: approx. 50 yrs (visual estimate only)

Condition:

- FAIR overall
- 15-18cm shoot elongation in previous growing season
- no girdling roots or mechanical damage observed (except some poor pruning cuts)
- planting height good (good root collar observed)
- main stem forks approx. halfway up, one fork is dead
- infected with Cytospora canker, *Cytospora kunzei*
 - dead branches; blueish exudation observed
 - this disease is not uncommon for this species
 - may eventually kill the tree, but odds are relatively low
 - poor pruning cuts of branches near bottom of main stem are the likeliest wounds where the disease was able to enter the tree (spores are usually spread by rain or wind; less likely, but possible, is a spore-carrying insect feeding on the foliage or wood)

Site: -no competing woody species; grassed beneath canopy and over root zone; minimal slope

Treatment recommendations:

- prune stubs back to their branch collars to promote more rapid healing
- remove deadwood to improve appearance and open crown so that new growth can "repopulate" that area of the crown
- improve the tree's vigour by:
 - 1) deep-root feeding in spring and fall with a slow-release complete fertilizer (ideally a wettable powder rather than a liquid); "complete" means N-P-K plus micronutrients
 - 2) water tree regularly (root zone beneath canopy), once a week, by placing a hose under the tree and letting it run at a very low setting overnight; water needs time to percolate beyond the grassroots
 - 3) apply a 2-3metre diameter area of mulch (5-10cm deep) around the base of the tree

You may wish to consider planting additional trees on your property. I suggest this largely because your spruce may eventually succumb to this or some other pathogen. In that event, your property will already have some other trees in place.

Thank you for being concerned about your tree. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Oliver Reichl

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