

Norway spruce adapt to climate change in European Alps

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For Norway spruce in the Northern Limestone Alps (Germany and Austria), neither growth suppression at the lower elevation sites nor growth increase at higher elevation sites was observed in a dataset covering more than 150 years (until 2003), despite a sharp temperature increase of $\sim 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ since the 1990s. According to the authors, these findings reveal the ability of mountain forests to adapt to an unprecedented temperature shift, suggesting that adaptation to forthcoming climate changes might not require a shift in tree species composition in the Northern Limestone Alps.

Source: Hartl-Meier et al., 2014. Climate Research 60: 119-132

Photo: Nicholas A. Tonelli (www.stckr.com)