

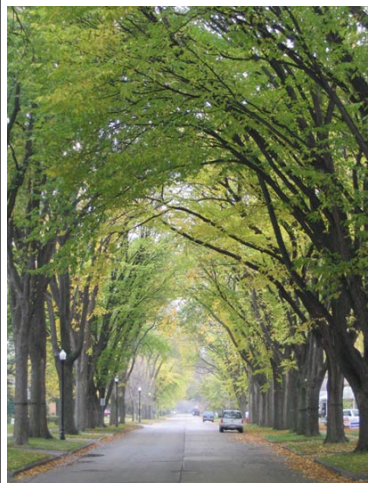
Shade Tree (over 30')  
Deciduous

Map #26

## *American Elm*

*(Ulmus americana)*

Family: *Ulmaceae*



**Leaves:** simple, ovate, unequal leaf bases (oblique), rough above, 3-6" long, doubly serrate; fall - yellow .

**Buds:** alternate, laterals small, conical and slender; flower buds fat, ovate, appear stalked, reddish brown, scales with downy edges, buds often to one side of leaf scar.

**Stems:** slender, red brown, slightly fuzzy at first, becoming hairless and smooth.

**Bark:** dark gray with wide intersecting ridges.

**Flowers:** not important.

**Fruits:** rounded, notched, disc-shaped seeds with papery wings, greenish, fringed with hairs, tan and papery when mature May through June.

**Habit:** vase like with arching branches—a beautiful form unequaled by any other species. Planted as street trees to form cathedral like arches of grandeur.

**Culture:** Highly adaptable to almost any soil. Very tolerant of urban conditions. Full sun. Plant only cultivars resistant to Dutch Elm Disease (DED). Existing large American Elms need aggressive treatment programs to be maintained.

**Cultivars:** 'Liberty' part of the American Liberty series of DED resistant elms released by UW-Madison. May be less resistant than 'Valley Forge' (most resistant) and 'New Harmony' both introduced from the U.S. Arboretum in the DC. Most of the other supposedly resistant cultivars are now showing increased susceptibility. Elms in general also are prone to slime flux and phloem necrosis.

**Miscellaneous:** Loss of the American elms nationwide supposedly taught us the lesson of the danger of monoculture planting, however, in many places, monocultures of other tree and shrub species such as green ash and honeylocust—have been planted.

**Related species:** Siberian Elm (*U. pumila*) is a weedy elm which produces seeds in abundance that sprout almost anywhere. Leaves are very small, many small branchlets drop throughout the season and the wood is very weak making this a messy, undesirable weed tree. Slippery Elm (*U. rubra*) is a close cousin of American Elm but tends to sprout from seeds readily and adapts to a wide variety of conditions making it weedy, like the Siberian E. It is somewhat less susceptible to the Dutch Elm Disease but still often succumbs .



Photo by Todd Carley

'Valley Forge'



Photo by Todd Carley

'New Harmony'



Slime flux



Root flare injections of fungicide



Beetle galleries



Vascular discoloration



"Flagging" symptom of infection by elm bark beetle

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