



Chinese Elm *Ulmus parvifolia*

Common Names: Chinese elm, lacebark elm, Drake elm

Native Origin: Asia- northern China, Japan, and Korea

Description: Chinese elm is a deciduous tree maturing at to a height of 50 feet and width of 60 feet. It is almost evergreen in mild climates. The small leaves are dark green and shiny, alternate, elliptical to ovate, serrated, and 1.5 to 2.4 inches long. Fall foliage is yellow, gold, orange, red, purple, and green, in early- to mid-November. Greenish-yellow flower occur in the leaf axils with inflorescences opening in August and early September. Fruits are lime green, quickly maturing to a deep russet in September and October. The seeds are winged and are dispersed primarily by the wind. This moderate to rapid growth tree can reach a mature trunk diameter of 3 to 4 feet and often forks to produce a vase shape. Young bark is a flaky brown-gray color, but mature bark is an exfoliating, mottled, and flaky combination of gray, green, orange, tan, and red-brown as seen in the photo above. This species develops a rounded crown with very fine branches.



Habitat: Generally hardy from zones 5 to 8 but can tolerate zones 4-9 and tolerant of full sun to partial sun. Chinese elm prefers well-drained soils, but adapts to poor soils, dry soils, soils of various pH, heat, and drought. Usually found escaping in the vicinity of planted trees in urban or suburban settings.

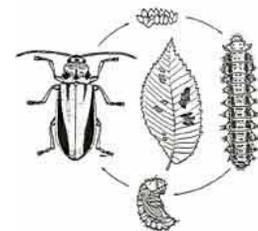


Distribution: This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in DC, NC, NE, NJ, VA, and WI.

Ecological Impacts: It is an ornamental tree in urban areas planted for tough durability, interesting bark and yellowish to reddish purple fall foliage as well as being resistant to Dutch elm disease and air pollution. It has escaped intended plantings to invade native plant communities. The aggressive root system absorbs water, nutrient, and space.

Control and Management:

- **Manual-** Hand pull small plants; remove all roots
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as triclopyr or imazapyr. Use stem injections, cut-treat, and soil spots, with basal and foliar sprays for seedlings and saplings. Follow label and state requirements.
- **Biocontrol:** The elm leaf beetle (pictured right) is an introduced pest that feeds on Chinese elm. Canker disease is a fungus that attacks leaves, branches, and/or trunks. This plant is considered invasive by



References: www.forestryimages.org, <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/factsheets/trees-new/ulmus_parvifolia.html, www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/hcs/TMI/Plantlist/ul_folia.html, www.ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/elm_leaf_beetle.htm, www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/syllabus/uparvifolia.htm