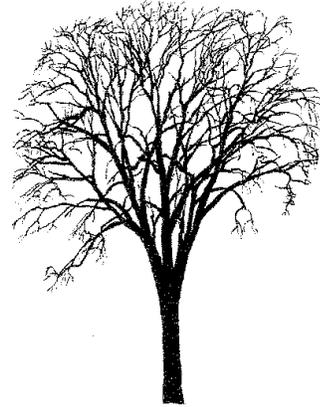
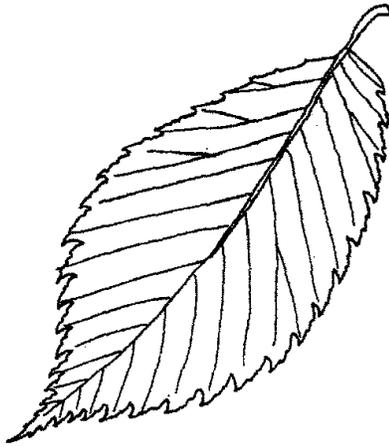


**American elm**

*Ulmus Americana*



**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** A majestic and aristocratic tree native to the United States and once heavily planted along the streets and in the parks of many American cities and towns. When planted as a street tree the trees arched over the street to make a continuous canopy. Dutch elm disease has all but eliminated this tree from the American landscape. The significance of this tree is its large size with long branches that arch at the end giving a most graceful upright spreading semi pendant form. The bark is light grey and deeply furrowed into broad, forking ridges. Autumn color is a bright yellow.

**HABIT AND SIZE:** 60-80' high (to 120') and 30-50' wide. Upright and forked into many spreading branches pendant at the end resulting in a rounded or vase-like crown that is frequently wider than high. The trunk tapers out to a buttress at the base.

**LANDSCAPE VALUE:** The susceptibility to Dutch elm disease severely limits its use until a resistant cultivar can be found.

**LEAVES:** Alternate, simple, doubly serrate, 3-6" long, 1-3" wide, ovate-oblong to oval, acuminate at the tip and unequal at the base. The side veins are distinct, straight and parallel. The topside texture is rough or gritty and hairy to the touch. The underside is softly hairy maturing to smooth. The color is dark green above and slightly lighter below.

**FLOWERS:** Greenish, 0.125" wide in close clusters (fascicles) with long pendulous pedicels appearing in early spring. Calyx 5-9 rounded lobes, stamens 7-8 with bright red anthers.

**FRUIT:** A rounded single seeded samara with deeply notched wings that are hairy on the edges

**BUD:** Small lateral buds acentric with leaf scar, ovate-conical, slightly flattened and pointed. Appressed against the stem, pubescent and reddish-brown and shiny. **DISEASES AND INSECTS:** too numerous to list. Major diseases are Dutch elm disease, (*Ceratocystis ulmi*) and the bacterial disease 'wetwood' (*Erwinia mimipressuralis*).

**HARDINESS AND RANGE:** Zones 2-9. Newfoundland to Florida and west to the Rocky Mountains.

**CULTIVARS:** 'Ascendens' and 'Augustine' both upright and much taller than wide. 'Valley Forge' and 'New Harmony' are potentially disease resistant clones.