



Chinese Elm *Ulmus parvifolia*

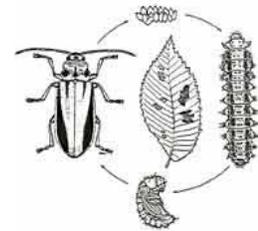


▶ **Common Names:** Chinese elm, Lacebark elm, Drake elm
 ▶ **Native Area:** Asia- northern China, Japan, and Korea
 ▶ **Description:** Chinese elm is a deciduous tree maturing at to a height of 50' and width of 60'. It is almost evergreen in mild climates. The small leaves are dark green and shiny, alternate, elliptical to ovate, serrated, and 1.5" to 2.4" 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' 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. 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.



▶ **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.

▶ **Natural Enemies:** 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.



▶ **Distribution in the United States:** This plant is considered invasive by DC, NC, NE, NJ, VA, and WI. It can be found in green states on map.



▶ **Control and Management:**

The best control may be to not plant Chinese elm.

Chemical control- Eliminate with herbicides by stem injections, cut-treat, and soil spots, with basal and foliar sprays for seedlings and saplings. Use Garlon 3A or Arsenal AC* in dilutions as specified on the label. (Nonnative Invasive Plants Field Guide, USDA, Miller p. 75)

References: <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, http://www.ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/elm_leaf_beetle.htm, www.cnr.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/syllabus/uparvifolia.htm