

# American Elm, White Elm - *Ulmus americana*

## Habitat:

- native to eastern North America, from Florida to Newfoundland
- zone 3
- generally found in wetlands

## Habit and Form:

- large, deciduous tree
- Three distinct habits:
  - vase-shaped (most common)
  - "oak-like" - broad and wide spreading, rounded
  - narrow with numerous branches covering trunk, columnar
- 60' to 90' tall
- width depends on habit of specimen
- medium texture
- medium growth rate

## Summer Foliage:

- alternate leaf arrangement
- simple leaves with doubly serrated leaf margins
- leaf size varies from 3" to 6" long
- oblique leaf base
- serrate leaf margins
- leaves have pubescent underside
- there are approx. 15 pairs on veins on each leaf
- leaf surface is rough
- short petiole
- dark green leaf color
- no terminal bud

## Autumn Foliage:

- turns yellowish-brown
- not ornamentally important

## Flowers: not of any ornamental value

## Fruit:

- rounded samaras
- notched at top
- 0.5" in diameter
- greenish yellow in color
- ripens May through June
- not noticeable

## Bark:

- dark gray color with deep ridges
- can be scaly when young
- ridges criss cross, showing different layers of bark color
- pubescent stems, reddish
- leaf scar appears to look like a "cat-face"

## Culture:

- easily transplanted
- pH adaptable
- prefers moist, fertile soil

- prune in September to October
- soil salt tolerant

Landscape Use:

- for beautiful habit
- street tree
- lawn tree

Liabilities:

- Dutch Elm Disease, has nearly wiped out species in North America
- Wetwood
- cankers
- leaf curl
- leaf spot
- powdery mildew
- aphids
- elm leaf minor
- elm leaf beetle

ID Features:

- deeply ridged bark with criss cross pattern
- samaras in spring
- no terminal buds
- rough textured leaves with many paired veins
- alternate leaf arrangement
- oblique leaf base
- doubly, serrate leaf margins
- pubescent stems
- deciduous, generally vase-shaped

