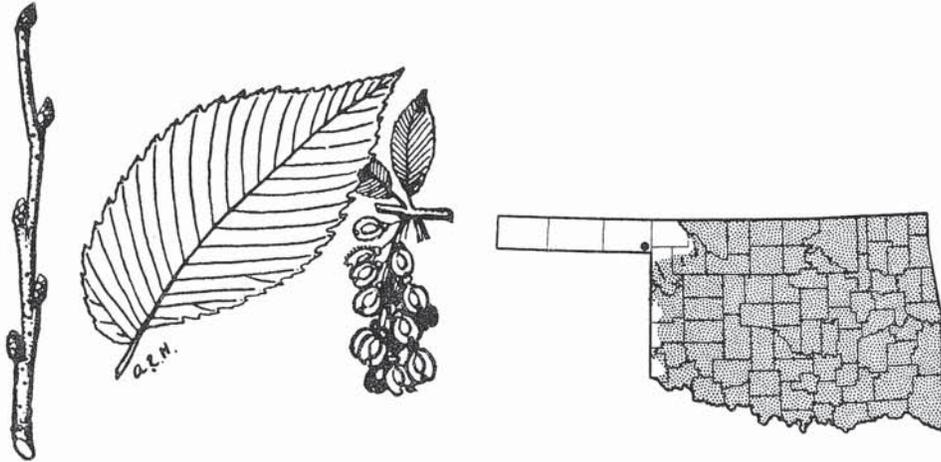


## 66. AMERICAN ELM

*Ulmus americana* L.; white elm.

Large tree 70 ft (21 m) high, with trunk 2 ft (0.6 m) in diameter, often enlarged at base, and with widespreading rounded or vasselike crown of long slender branches, often drooping at ends. **Twigs** slender, slightly zigzag, brown, mostly hairless. **Buds** pointed, slightly flattened to side, dark brown, hairless; no end bud.



**Leaves** in 2 rows, elliptical, 3-6 in (7.5-15 cm) long, 1-3 in (2.5-7.5 cm) wide, abruptly long-pointed, rounded at base with sides unequal, coarsely doubly toothed with unequal teeth, thin, with many straight parallel side veins, above dark green and usually hairless and *smooth*, beneath paler and usually soft hairy, turning bright yellow in autumn.

**Fruits** several on long stalks at leaf bases, elliptical keys (samaras)  $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  in (10-13 mm) long, thin, flat, hairless, bordered with wing hairy on edges, deeply notched with points curved inward, maturing in early spring, with 1 seed.

**Bark** light gray, deeply furrowed into broad forking scaly ridges.

**Wood** light brown to reddish brown, with thick whitish or brownish white sapwood, ring porous, coarse- and uneven-textured, moderately heavy (sp.gr. .46), moderately hard, tough, easily bent. Principal uses are containers (boxes, baskets, crates, barrels), furniture, veneer, paneling, toys, and novelties.

Common in moist soil, oak-hickory, flood plain, and valley forests, through Okla. except panhandle. Widespread in hardwood forests through e. half of U.S. and adjacent Canada. Zone 2.

American elm has been planted widely for shade and shelterbelts as one of the most popular trees of the city streets, lawns, and parks. However, it is no longer "the famous shade tree" of previous editions nor widely recommended. Many trees have been killed by the Dutch elm disease and must be removed. The fungus was introduced accidentally about 1930 and is spread by elm bark beetles. This native elm is being replaced by less susceptible introduced species and by improved varieties. State tree of Mass. and N. Dak.