

68. LACEBARK ELM*

Ulmus parvifolia Jacq.; Chinese elm.

Medium-sized introduced tree 50 ft (15 m) high and 1½ ft (0.5 m) in diameter, with rounded dense crown of spreading branches. Twigs slender, slightly zigzag, hairy. Buds brown, hairless or nearly so; no end bud.



Leaves in 2 rows, *small*, $\frac{3}{4}$ -2 in (2-5 cm) long, elliptical, $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ in (1-2 cm) wide, short-pointed or blunt at tip, unequally rounded at base, edges with *blunt teeth*, *slightly thickened*, shiny dark green and hairless above, beneath paler and hairy when young and in vein angles, turning reddish or purplish in autumn or in warm climates almost evergreen.

Flowers few clustered at leaf bases, small, greenish, $\frac{1}{8}$ in (3 mm) across, in autumn.

Fruits elliptical keys (samaras) $\frac{3}{8}$ in (1 cm) long, thin and flat, bordered with broad pale yellow wing, maturing in *autumn*, with 1 seed.

Bark mottled brown, smoothish, shedding in irregular thin flakes and exposing reddish brown inner bark, suggesting lace.

Planted in shelterbelts and for shade and ornament in w. and c. Okla. Introduced across U.S., especially in Gulf and Pacific regions, but not hardy in n. U.S. Native of n. and c. China, Korea, and Japan. Zone 6.

This handsome ornamental named for its showy flaky bark is known as Chinese elm. Fast-growing and hardy in warm and dry areas. Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*), erroneously called Chinese elm, is distinguished by its rough furrowed bark, spring flowers, and large rounded fruits borne also in spring.