

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

American Elm

(Ulmus americana)

Get to know your tree:

The American elm is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, oblong, coarsely double-toothed leaves with pointed tips and uneven leaf bases. Fall leaf color is typically a pale yellow or yellow-brown. Flowers are small, greenish-yellow or red in color, and hang from long stalks. Fruits are small, flattened, hairy, notched, pale green samaras that ripen brown and hang in clusters. Bark is dark grey and furrowed, with narrow, untidy, interlacing ridges. This species typically exhibits a vase-shaped growth form.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter elm provides approximately \$39.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 14 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger elms, please visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

Due to its vase-like shape, the American elm is an ideal street tree and was frequently planted along streets by early city planners, including in Washington, D.C. by Pierre L'Enfant.

The American elm was ravaged by the introduction of Dutch Elm disease, which is caused by a fungus introduced from Europe around 1930. However, resistant cultivars such as 'Princeton' and 'Jefferson' are now widely available.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Elms grow to heights of 60-80 feet, with a spread of around 50 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels. This species does best in moist, fertile soils. It is tolerant of heat, but can be prone to limb breakage, especially with age.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.

