

## Chinese Lacebark Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)

**Hardiness zones:** 4-9  
**Height:** 40-50 feet  
**Spread:** 30-40 feet  
**Flower color:** green/yellow  
**Fall color:** purple, red, yellow  
**Soil moisture:** medium  
**Soil type:** various  
**Light:** part shade to full sun  
**Growth rate:** rapid  
**Shape:** rounded to vase shape  
**Drought tolerance:** moderate to high

The Chinese Lacebark Elm is a fast growing specimen that is making its mark as an excellent shade tree for the small landscape. This under-used gem is one of the top urban trees on the recommended list for the mid-West and understandably so. It is resistant to disease, has few insect problems, works well in confined soil spaces and is drought tolerant.



*Eye-catching orange lenticels (pores in the bark that allow for the interchange of gases)*



*Unusual bark is the hallmark feature of this tree.*



*Arching branches give a somewhat "weeping" appearance*

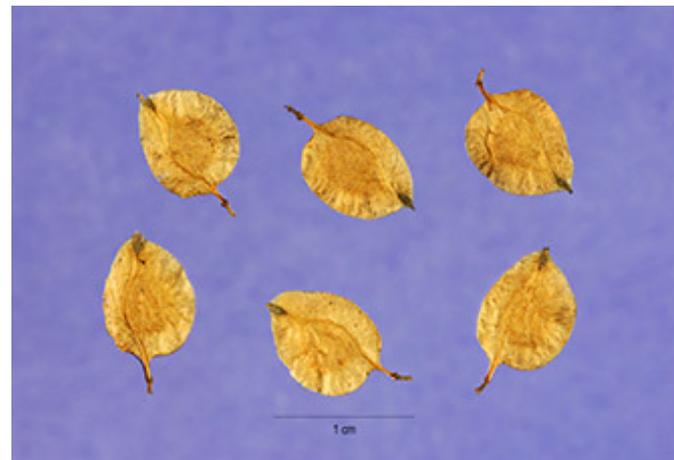
The Chinese elm is best known for having beautiful bark which exfoliates to reveal a colorful mixture of gray, green, orange, brown and olive. These colors are surrounded by orange lenticels, or pores which allow for exchange of gases between the flesh of the tree and the atmosphere. The vibrant trunk gives way to long, gracefully arching branches which have a "weeping" appearance, making the Chinese elm particularly attractive in winter.



*Lime green samaras emerge in September...*



*ripen to a russet brown in October...*



*and eventually form dense clusters of papery seeds.*

While most elms produce their seeds or "samaras" in the spring, this species bears fruit in the fall, with an initial burst of striking lime green seeds in September that quickly mature to a deep russet color by October. When fully ripened, the samaras hang in papery, dense clusters that are quite striking against the red and purple autumn foliage. This excellent fall color mixture transitions very late, offering year round visual interest.

This species will grow successfully in some of the most rigorous conditions, including areas with poor drainage, compacted soil, small spaces and air pollution. The Chinese Lacebark Elm is a rapidly growing, carefree tree that makes a wonderful year round addition to any urban landscape setting.