

Siberian Elm



Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) is a hardy, fast growing, mid-sized, deciduous tree or shrub from China, eastern Siberia, Manchuria, and Korea.

Appearance and Growth:

Siberian elm can get up to 70 feet tall and has an open crown with upward-growing branches and many flexible, brittle branchlets that easily break off. Leaves grow alternately on branches, are heart-shaped at the base and taper to a long point, with small teeth along the entire margin.

Habitat and spread:

Reproduction is by seed, primarily dispersed by wind, but also by water, animals, and in the undercarriages of equipment and vehicles. Flowers are cross-pollinated by the wind, and trees can be self-fertilizing. Small clusters of 3-15 perfect flowers are produced at intervals along the preceding year's branches. The blooming period occurs from early to mid-spring before the leaves develop, lasting about one week. Seeds develop in a light green, oval-shaped, and flattened wing-like fruit known as a samara. Siberian elm does not tolerate flooding and seldom invades mature forest because of its high requirement for sunlight. Siberian elm can dominate new locations in just a few years due to its adaptability, high rate of germination, and rapid growth.

How to manage it:

Mechanical

Very young seedlings can be pulled fairly easily by hand or with a weed-wrench, especially in moist soil conditions. Cutting trees without chemical application often leads to significant basal and root sprouting. Mechanical methods alone are not recommended for older trees. Treating cut-stumps with herbicide is more effective than cutting alone and can eliminate sprouting.\

Chemical

Methods include foliar application, basal bark spray, cut stump, and success is influenced by factors like time of year, the growth form (low growing, multi-stemmed shrub vs mid-sized, single stem tree), etc. The following are recommendations for herbicides that can treat Siberian elm; follow-up applications will be necessary. Please reference the label for exact rates. Always read, understand, and follow the label directions. The herbicide label is the LAW!

