

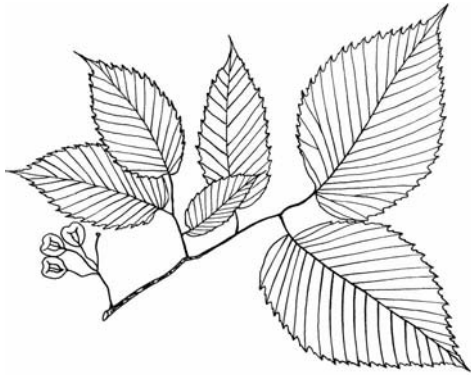
AMERICAN ELM

Ulmus americana L.

American elm is one of our largest and most graceful trees and often occurs throughout the state. Its numbers are severely decimated by the Dutch elm disease. It is found more often on rich bottom lands and moist soil along streams, but sometimes grows on higher ground.

The trunk often divides into numerous limbs which form a vase-shaped or spreading round-topped head with graceful, drooping branches. It attains a height of 60-70 feet and a diameter of 2-4 feet.

The **bark** on the trunk is separated into broad ridges by deep fissures and is an ashy-gray color on the surface. It shows alternate layers of chocolate brown and buff coloration beneath.



The **leaves** are alternate, 3-6 inches long, with coarsely doubly-toothed margins and uneven bases. The upper surface is dark green and somewhat rough.

The **flowers** appear in April before the leaves.

The **fruit** consists of a small, winged seed which ripens about the last of May before the leaves have fully developed. It has a wide, open notch at the apex, and a hairy margin.



The **wood** is spiral and coarse-grained, hard, heavy, strong, tough and hard to split. It is used for flooring, railroad ties, hoops, farm lumber and pulp.