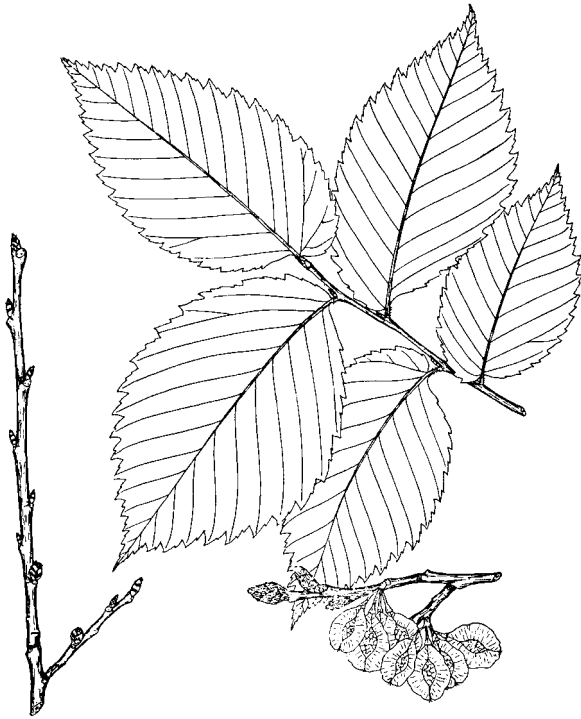


## SLIPPERY ELM

*Ulmus rubra* Muhl.

Slippery or red elm is extremely rare in the state. The 1995 *Revised Checklist of Vascular Plants of Maine* by Campbell et al. shows this species occurring naturally in scattered locations in York and Franklin Counties. It grows best on low, rich soil though it sometimes occurs on higher ground. It grows up to 50 feet in height and 2 feet in diameter.

The **bark** is thick, dark brown tinged with red, divided by shallow fissures into flat ridges and covered with flat



scales. Inner bark is sticky when chewed.

The **leaves** are simple, alternate, 4-6 inches long, sharply toothed, dark green and very rough on the upper surface and hairy on the under surface. The **flowers** appear before the leaves in the middle of April. The **fruit** is small, flattened and winged without hairs on the margin. It ripens in late spring. The **winter buds** are obtuse, dark brown in color and covered with rusty hairs.

The **wood** is heavy, strong and durable. The inner bark is gathered for medicinal purposes.