

HOW TO IDENTIFY AN ELM TREE

Two kinds of elms can be infected with Dutch Elm Disease. However, almost all the big elms in the city are American Elms. The second kind, Siberian Elm, is found much less often.

TO IDENTIFY AN AMERICAN ELM

1. LOOK FOR A VASE OR UMBRELLA-LIKE SHAPE.

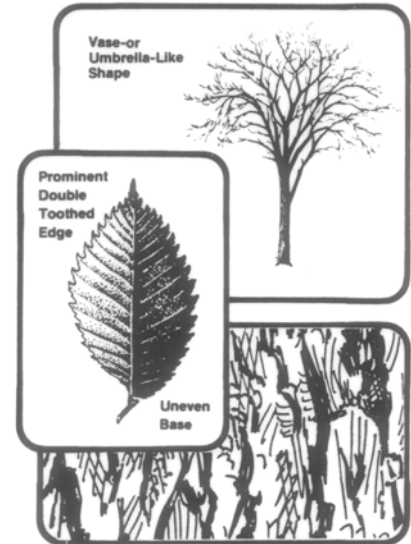
From a distance, American Elm is one of the most easily recognized trees. The trunk, usually straight (although sometimes buttressed at the base), forks several feet above the ground into a few large, ascending limbs which divide repeatedly until lost in many outwardly fanning branchlets to form a graceful, spreading, vase-like or umbrella-like crown. The branchlets are often drooping, even on relatively young trees.

2. CHECK A LEAF. IT SHOULD BE TOOTHED AND HAVE ONE SIDE LONGER THAN THE OTHER.

Leaves are about 4 1/2-ins. long by 2-3 ins. wide, dark green, smooth or slightly rough above and paler green on the undersurface. The lateral veins average four to the inch of midrib at the mid-portion of the leaf.

3. LOOK AT THE BARK.

The bark surface is generally dark grey to grey brown in colour. The outer bark is composed of broad, intersecting ridges and has a rough flaky appearance.



TO IDENTIFY A SIBERIAN ELM

The Siberian Elm is less common on city streets. A general description is given in case you should encounter one.

Siberian Elm is a fast growing tree reaching a height of 15-20 feet in 10 years and 30-35 feet at the end of its 30 year life span. Its extensively branching crown forms many weak crotches, resulting in breakage during severe winds.

The leaves are simple, oval and assymetrical, bearing toothed margins. Each leaf is about an inch long and half an inch wide.

