

American Elm
Ulmus americana



Description: A handsome medium to large tree (to 100 feet tall, 4 feet diam.) with a broad, rounded crown. Open-grown trees have diverging limbs and drooping branches, resulting in a vase-shaped growth form. Bark has alternating brown and white layers.

Leaves: Alternate on twig, borne singly on very short (<math>< \frac{1}{2}</math> inch) yellow stems. Blades to 5 inches, half as wide; edges doubly saw-toothed; upper surface dark green and smooth to touch, lower surface paler and hairy to smooth, leaf bases asymmetrical. Turn yellow in autumn.

Bark: Medium to dark gray; older trees have deep, irregular, intersecting furrows separated by flat ridges. A cross-section of a piece of bark reveals alternating layers of nearly white cork and dark reddish-brown fiber.

Flowers: Bisexual flowers small, cluttered on slender, drooping stalks before leafing; greenish-red, hairy, small

Fruits: Dry, in dense clusters, flattened oval (<math>< \frac{1}{2}</math> inch); a circular, papery wing surrounds seeds; wing hairy-edged and notched at top; wind-scattered in spring.

Habitat/Range: Most common in bottomland forests along streams and on floodplains. Also occurs on upland flats and in moist ravine forests, in fencerows, and old fields. Throughout Indiana