

# AMERICAN ELM

*Ulmus Americana*

Deciduous. Large tree often 80' tall, can reach 160' in the wild. Its large size and a graceful spreading crown made this a popular shade tree before it was decimated by disease in the mid-1900s. Mature trees develop a broad crown with high arching branches (vase shaped) with large buttress trunks. The coarsely double toothed leaves are 3-5 inches long, oval with short points, and can be smooth or rough above with a pale green to whitish under leaf. The leaf base is very uneven. The stalk is short and stout. Many straight parallel veins run to leaf edge. The seeds are centered to small roundish narrow discs that are dispersed by wind. The fruit (seed) is 1/2", pale yellow-green ripening into brown, hanging in clusters and ripening in early spring before the leaves expand. The flowers are drooping on long stalks in very early spring before the leaves. The bark of mature trunks is furrowed in narrow, untidy, interlacing ridges; each ridge scaly, with fallen scales revealing white patches. The young trunk is slightly furrowed with scaly ridges. A cross section of bark reveals alternating layers of white and brown making it quite distinctive. The wood is highly prized by lumberman for its straight, long, clean logs that may reach 50' before encountering a branch.



American Elms were once planted widely along city streets throughout the Northeast and Midwest. It is still common as a small tree, and some large specimens survive in towns and cities. In 1927, the Dutch Elm disease killed many of these streets' trees. The Mahantongo Street in Pottsville was once tree lined with American Elms. Only a few still remain growing today.



There are a few mature American Elm at the Baber Cemetery. Some are along the bank of the clearing to the north of the chapel. And a few are to the far east of the property line by 12th St. and the neighbor's house that was once owned by the cemetery and part of the Baber Estate. One interesting one has grown between two American Beech.

