

'HOMESTEAD' HYBRID ELM

Ulmus x 'Homestead'

The 'Homestead' Hybrid Elm, a complex hybrid between *U. pumila* and a Dutch hybrid, was developed in Ohio with a high resistance to Dutch elm disease and phloem necrosis and introduced in 1984. The Homestead grows to height of 50'-60' with widths of 35'-45'. The crown is conical, symmetrical and dense when young, later becoming arched. Its foliage is shiny green as an infant, then turning dark green in summer with an attractive bleached yellow fall foliage. The leaves are long, 2-4" and 1-2" wide, ovate to narrow ovate to elliptic shaped with an acute tip and a double serrated margin. Its greenish, tiny multi-flowers are inconspicuous. Its fruit is a 1\2" shaped disk, maturing in spring. Young stems are brown to gray; older bark is smooth and gray, becoming fissured in old age. It has a pleasing form with vigorous growth and tolerance to urban stress. It responds well to transplanting and tolerates compacted, wet, or droughty acid to alkaline soils, salt, and pollution.



The Homestead Hybrid Elm is a new addition to the cemetery. It was planted in conjunction with the Arbor Day tree program. In 2010, seven Homestead hybrids were planted. Three were planted at the northwest corner of East Lake Road leading to Valley Road; two were planted on Valley Road leading away from East Lake Rd., and two were planted on the north side of Elm Ave., down from 3 mature Elm trees. In 2011, three Homestead hybrids were planted on the southern part of East Lake Road - one on either side of Elm Ave., and one at the start of the row of Swamp oak on West Lake Road.



Valley Road, lined with the infant elm trees, as seen in the picture to the left, is subject to intense water runoff from 16th St. and an underground stream that runs behind the carriage house. The gravel must frequently be backfilled; and it is one of the future projects of the cemetery that will require community support and funding.