

# SIBERIAN ELM

*Ulmus pumila*

Deciduous. Small to medium tree to 50'; crown open, rounded, messy. The Siberian Elm has a spreading crown of irregular branches, many small twigs that form a dense haze. Resistant to Dutch elm disease. Leaves elliptic to narrowly ovate, 2-1½" long, 1" across, nearly equal sided at the base, taper-pointed, sharply toothed, dark green above, smooth on both sides. Underleaf paler green, nearly hairless. The fruit is a ½" yellowish circular disk, hairless with broad wing, deep notch, nearly stalkless; ripens in the spring. The flower buds are large, round, and blackish. The flowers appear in late winter and early spring before the leaves. They are in tight clusters, blackish and green. The bark on mature trunks is deeply furrowed with rugged interlacing ridges, gray-brown. The Siberian Elm is similar to the Chinese Elm in leaf type, height, dense crown, and circular fruit disk. The difference is that the Chinese Elm has branches that weep; and its flowers appear in late summer/fall in small clusters not dangling. The Chinese Elm has a bark that peels in flakes revealing orange patches.



Originally thought to be Chinese Elm, there is still uncertainty that the three mature trees at the Baber Cemetery are Siberian Elm. After a heavy wind and rain storm, some branches that had fallen from the tree were examined by the Forestry Service. The seeds and leaves and the lack of orange bark coloration, tend to shift the vote in favor of the Siberian Elm vs. the Chinese Elm. The 3 trees are located in the lower level on Elm Avenue next to and across from the Comloquoy mausoleum. No matter what time of year the three Elm are photographed, they are exquisite in their long elegant branches that seem to reach skyward. Even in full foliage the graceful curve of the limbs is evident.

