'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. It was introduced in 1984. The Homestead grows to heights of 50'-60' with widths of 35'-45'. The crown is conical, symmetrical and dense when young, later becoming arched. Its foliate 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. The spring leaves form in small balls that gently unfurl as the spring progresses. 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 limbs reaching upward, and a 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 Road, and two were planted on the north side of Elm Avenue, down from 3 mature Elm trees. In 2011, two Homestead hybrids were planted on the southern part of East Lake Road - one on either side of Elm Avenue close to the Siberian Elms by the Comloquoy Mausoleum.

The 2010 and 2011 plantings are getting tall and their skyward growing limbs get heavy with full foliage. During high winds or with a snowfall in early November, the heavy limbs tend to rip downward from the trunk. To offset this, the lower limbs have to be pruned until the tree gets taller, and its trunk get fuller and sturdier.