Corkbark Elm

Ulmus parvifolia 'Corticosa'



Corkbark Elm foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 45 feet

Spread: 45 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Chinese Elm, Lacebark Elm

Description:

A magificent tall shade or street tree featuring a strongly vase shaped habit and stunning mottled brown bark that is like cork, impressive in winter; highly resistant to Dutch elm disease, adaptable, considered one of the hardiest selections

Ornamental Features

Corkbark Elm has dark green deciduous foliage on a tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. The small serrated pointy leaves turn an outstanding orange in the fall. The warty gray bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Corkbark Elm is a deciduous tree with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Corkbark Elm is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade

Planting & Growing

Corkbark Elm will grow to be about 45 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 45 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 6 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

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This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

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