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# CHINESE ELM

ULMUS PUMILA (Northern Strain)

PLANT EXPLORATION  
AND INTRODUCTION

Rec'd NOV 23 1935

Answered



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U. S. Department of Agriculture

GRACEFUL

As the Cut Leaf Birch

RAPID GROWING

As the Poplar

BEAUTIFUL

As the Best American Elm

**THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION**

IN RECENT YEARS TO HORTICULTURE

**The Northwest Nursery Company**

**Valley City, North Dakota**

# STORY OF ULMUS PUMILA

Ten years ago in the government bulletin, "Plant Immigrants" we read the story of a wonderful elm growing in northern China and Siberia. We filed our requests for trial trees with the government. In the spring of '18 we received a few seedling trees by mail. We planted these in our arboretum and for the time forgot them.

It was only for a short time, however, because they forced themselves upon our attention by their most remarkable growth. They seemed to spring up into good sized trees from almost nowhere. It was not only their size, however, that got our attention but their great beauty. Their foliage was a dark lustrous green which hung in heavy masses from fine lace-like branches suggestive of the Cut Leaf Birch. Yet the leaves, when examined strongly, resembled the leaves of the American elm although a little finer and grew in more heavy clusters. These trees were healthy, free from any disease and seemed to thrive equally well in drought or in rainy seasons.

We began to investigate the merits of these promising trees. The more we learned about them the more the truth forced itself upon us that the Chinese elm were among the finest of trees for the middle-west.

Reports had come to us that the government field station had planted trial groves of these trees throughout the northwest. We secured the names of these plantations and wrote the owners. We asked many questions concerning their growth, habits, freedom from disease, ability to withstand drought and neglect, the length of time that the foliage remained green and how many trees were failures. The replies were most remarkable. The planters had been impressed the same as ourselves; almost 100% were growing and thriving. Without exception every planter was loud in his praise of these trees. Nearly every man told of his failure with other trees but his Chinese elm grew wonderfully. On the opposite page we quote from several of these farmers.

It is interesting to know that this remarkable tree comes from northern Manchuria and Siberia—the land that has given us sweet clover, alfalfa, Siberian pea tree, the dwarf red maple, the Rugosa rose and the Hugonis rose. It is a land rich in thrifty and hardy plants. It has now given us a most remarkable tree. We predict that it will sweep this country by storm, already the demand far exceeds the supply. It is most unusual to discover a tree that will grow in poor soil, grow rapidly in spite of neglect, and at the same time combine the gracefulness, dignity and rare beauty of our finest trees. The Chinese elm has come to stay and will soon be among our most valuable trees in lawn and in street planting.

Dr. E. H. Wilson of the Arnold Arboretum, (known as Chinese Wilson) wrote Mr. J. Horace McFarland as follows:

The Ulmus Pumila in northern Korea and Manchuria is often a tree 80 feet tall with a trunk 12 feet in girth. It grows very rapidly here and is said to do the same in the Middle West."



State  
Capitol  
Grounds  
Bismarck



Photo by  
**Frank N. Meyers**  
U. S. Horticulturist  
of  
**CHINESE ELM**  
in  
Pekin, China  
Said to be  
300 Years Old

## THE WEIGHT OF AUTHORITY

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, in 1923 catalog of "Plant Introduction", says:

"The Chinese Elm is a medium sized tree remarkably resistant to drought, alkali, and severe extremes of temperature. It has proven exceptionally valuable as a shade tree in the semi-arid regions of the United States, where it has made phenomenal growth. It also seems well adapted to the cold northern plains of this country. A remarkable tree which is recommended highly, especially for regions unsuited to most of the common shade trees."

Mr. Smith, Mandan, writes: "I think the Chinese Elm tree is by far the best tree for this part of our state. It greens quick, is a very pretty tree. Insects do not seem to bother as much as they do the Box Elder. I planted Silver Leaf Poplar, Diamond Willow, Box Elder but the Chinese Elm beats them all."

Mr. Austin, Rudyard, Mont., writes: "Our experience with the Chinese Elm has been very satisfactory. It is a very rapid grower, free from disease and insect pests, drought resistant and a most beautiful tree. Let it be remembered that this section of the country for the last six years or more has had an annual water fall of about 8 1-4 inches. but the Chinese Elms have stood the tests."

Leonard Barron, Editor, Country Life Magazine. "This Elm is growing now successfully in various parts of the country from the Pacific Coast, in the Great Plains section, through the Middlewest, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and up into New England, even on the very edge of the Atlantic Ocean.

"In its own native region, and in Saskatchewan, it is said to withstand temperatures of 40 degrees below zero, and at the same time going to the other extreme of enduring 120 degrees above zero in Arizona."

Mr. Towle of the Sheridan Field writes: "The Chinese Elm has made about the most rapid growth of any of the trees planted here, and there has been very little loss with any of the plantings made. Leaves were not dropped at all in the fall of 1923, but there was no winter killing."

Mr. Tope, Fort Benton, Mont., writes: "We prize them very highly and I am sure you cannot say too much about them. They excell any other trees in this country without any question."

Mr. McDonald, Flatwillow, Mont., writes: "I have planted Poplar, Laurel Leaf Willow, Ash and Box Elder and the Chinese Elm have made the finest growth of all, and we had three dry years since I planted my first trees in 1916."

Mr. Chilcott, Supt. of the Experiment Station at Woodward, Okla., writes: "So far as I know it is the most rapid-growing and most graceful shade tree we have for the semi-arid southwest, and is free from insect and disease enemies and any pronounced bad qualities."



## WHY THE CHINESE ELM

### IS THE MOST TALKED OF TREE IN THE WEST TODAY

- 1.—The Chinese Elm is a tree of rare beauty. It has heavy, dark green foliage of the Elm type with delicate fine twigs. It combines the beauty of the best Elms with the gracefulness of the Cut Leaf Birch.
- 2.—It resists drought and cold, thrives on poor soil and makes a fine showing in spite of neglect.
- 3.—It is a tree of rapid growth—growing as rapidly as the Soft Maple or Cottonwood. It is not uncommon for a 2-ft. seedling in the Nursery row to become a 10-ft. tree in two seasons.
- 4.—It holds its foliage until late in the Fall—adding three or four weeks to the year's growing season.

#### A GREAT HEDGE

Chinese Elm is proving to be especially adaptable for a fine, closely trimmed, well kept hedge. In China this plant is used as much for hedges as it is for trees. Its habit of making fine branches, fine twigs and extremely fine thick foliage makes it an ideal plant to respond to trimming. Many people will prefer to use this in the snow fence as the second row in Caragana—that is, one of Caragana and one of Chinese Elm. It is an ideal hedge for farms or the rear yard hedges. When a dense low hedge is wanted smaller sized seedlings should be used, double spaced and cut low to force low, fine branching. The inclosed picture from the government station in Washington, tells the story of the wonderful adaptability of this remarkable plant.

#### CAUTION:

**Do not plant on low, wet land, but plant on higher ground. Do not force growth late in the season but permit tree to ripen early.**



**CHINESE ELM TRIMMED HEDGE**  
Government Arboretum, Washington, D. C.