

XERISCAPE
NATURE'S CHOICE OF LANDSCAPE



Ulmus parvifolia
Evergreen Elm

Ulmus parvifolia, also known as evergreen elm, lacebark elm or Chinese evergreen elm, is best characterized by its long, arching branches and rounded crown which provide dense summer shade. This tree makes a beautiful and functional addition to parks, school grounds and other open areas. Their large size and extensive root systems make them less suitable for small residential landscapes.

The evergreen elm is a fast grower, and needs plenty of room to reach its full potential. It can reach a height of 30 feet in as little as eight years. Mature growth is approximately 35 feet high and 35 feet wide, depending on watering and soil conditions.

A great attraction of this tree comes from the bark which is mottled in texture and gray and tan in color. The peeling of the bark usually occurs after the tree has a chance to mature in the landscape with the layers looking like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. In late summer you will see some insignificant flowering, with small papery seeds developing in the fall.

Ulmus parvifolia is native to north and central China, Korea and Japan. Fall leaf color is variable, but some yellowish to reddish purple is possible even in warmer climates. *Ulmus parvifolia* tends to be semi-evergreen, losing its leaves for a brief time from January to March. The leaves are leathery and broader than many in the desert adaptable plant palette.

Evergreen elms are not plagued by pests or diseases, but can be vulnerable to root rot here in the desert. They prefer full sun and deep soil with good drainage. They need deep, infrequent irrigation, but will tolerate additional watering in turf areas. As with all large trees, water should be applied at the canopy edge, or drip line of the plant.