

## American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)



The American Elm is also known as the white elm, water elm, soft elm, or common elm. The American Elm can grow to be about 80-120 feet tall, 2-5 feet in diameter and have a lifespan of approximately 150 years.

American Elm trees were the predominant landscape tree in the Northeast and were popular as street trees as well. Once Dutch Elm Disease was introduced in the 1930s from elm bark beetles, it killed off millions of the trees and lowered the species average lifespan. As part of ongoing restoration efforts, however, research has led to the deployment of an American Elm that is more tolerant of the fungus. There are only a couple of American Elm trees found in the urban forest here in New Albany.

The American Elm wood is used for kitchenette furniture, flooring, baskets, and wooden ware. American Elm wood can be easily bent when steamed, so it is also used to make barrels and baskets. Elm wood burns slowly and is difficult to split because of its spiral grain.