

Tree Profile: *Chinese Elm - Ulmus parvifolia*

General information: The Chinese Elm is native to China, Japan, North Korea and Vietnam. In large part due to its small leaves, it is one of the most common trees crafted for bonsai purposes. Although classed as a deciduous tree, often the leaves persist all year round in Melbourne's climate. It is very hardy relative to other deciduous trees and because of its high tolerance of pruning, making it ideal for the beginner.

Lighting and Temperature: Full sun or partial shade throughout the year but will need protection in winter from frost, in summer from hot winds. Due to its versatility it has the ability to tolerate a wide range of temperatures, light, and humidity conditions

Watering: Daily throughout the growing season, easing off in winter. Keep the soil moist but well drained.

Feeding: Recommended during its growth season from spring - summer, three to four times a year is enough to maintain a healthy growth. If you want to retain the small leaves don't use high nitrogen fertilizer.

Pruning and wiring: Shorten new shoots on established branches to



two sets of leaves. Remove large leaves throughout the growing season. Pruning large branches is best done in late autumn.

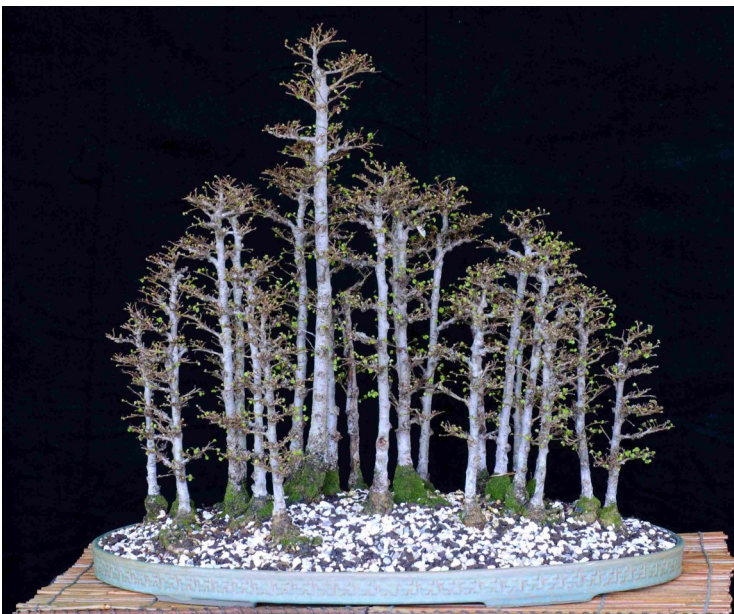
Wiring can be done any time during growth, but take care as old woody branches are brittle and the bark is thin and damages easily.

Propagation: From air-layering or grown from both hardwood and softwood cuttings. Softwood cuttings in summer, use heel cuttings for better results. Air layering may be done in spring and early summer. Root cuttings are also usually successful.

Repotting: Early Spring is the best time just prior to bud break, annual repotting for young trees; older trees only every 2-3 years. Position the roots during repotting!

Pests and diseases: Generally pest and disease free, but are vulnerable to borers and chewing insects. Watch for aphids, leafhoppers and gall mites.

Styles: Suitable for all forms and sizes - especially good for the broom style which is the natural shape of Ulmus.



Other Elm species suitable for bonsai:

There are over 40 varieties of elms available and several interesting and rare cultivars have been developed as well.

'Seiju' and 'Catlin' are dwarf varieties with very small leaves.

'Nire-keyaki' dense branching and tiniest fringed leaves.

'Corky Bark' very attractive as the name indicates.

'Stone's Dwarf' distinguished by its rough, but not corky bark.

