



Ulmus americana 'Jefferson'

The US National Arboretum and the National Park Service present '**Jefferson**', elm. This American elm is a classic with a little bit more..... an expansive crown, dark green leaves that develop early in spring and last late into autumn, and an outstanding level of Dutch elm disease tolerance. The original 'Jefferson' is right on the National Mall in Washington, DC and it's been there for more than 70 years. How's that for stress tolerance? Take a walk on the mall, take a look, and take 'Jefferson' into consideration for your own monumental planting.





'Jefferson' American Elm

Botanical Name:	<i>Ulmus americana</i> 'Jefferson'
Numbers	(NA 62001; PI 635109; NPS 3-487)
Family	Ulmaceae
Hardiness:	USDA Zones 4-7
Development:	'Jefferson' was originally selected by the National Park Service (NPS) from approximately 600 elms planted in the National Mall in Washington, DC in the 1930's for disease tolerance and exceptional horticultural characteristics. It has demonstrated a high level of tolerance to <i>Ophiostoma ulmi</i> , the fungus that causes Dutch Elm Disease, in collaborative screening conducted by scientists James L. Sherald, NPS, and Alden M. Townsend, USNA. 'Jefferson' was successfully grown and evaluated in DC, MD, MN, MS, NJ, OK, OR and TN. Released in 2005.
Significance:	'Jefferson' is the first joint release of a disease tolerant American elm cultivar by the NPS, U.S. Department of the Interior and the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is a verified triploid selection with a high level of disease tolerance to DED. and adds diversity to the list of DED tolerant American elm cultivars introduced by USNA and others. The original plant is located in front of the Freer Gallery on the National Mall, Washington, DC. A propagule of 'Jefferson' was one of two American elms planted at the White House in October, 2006.
Description:	Height and Width: At 70 years: 68 feet in height, 50' crown spread, 35 inches diameter at breast height. Habit: Umbrella shaped crown; with broad U-shaped branch unions. Deciduous. Foliage: Dark green leaves emerge earlier in spring and retained later in fall than typical American elm .4.2 inches long and 2.3 inches wide; turning yellow in autumn. Bark: Smooth, light to reddish gray in young trees and becoming dark grey and fissured in older trees. Seed: Generally sterile.
Culture:	Adaptable to a wide variety of soil conditions and pH. American elms tolerate numerous environmental stresses including deicing salts, drought, and air pollution. Avoid monoculture.
Propagation:	Softwood or semi-hardwood cuttings under mist, 3000-8000 ppm IBA, root within 3-10 weeks. Vigorous cuttings taken mid-May in the Washington, DC area, have rooted with excellent success.
Landscape Use:	Urban and suburban tree plantings, cemeteries, parks and highway plantings with sufficient room for large trees.
Availability	Available from wholesale nurseries; limited availability from mail-order firms.

U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction
Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit

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