

American Elm

Ulmus americana

American elm is also known as white elm.

The fruit of the elm is equipped with papery wings that facilitate dispersal by wind.

American elm is the larval host for several types of butterflies, including Painted Lady and Mourning Cloak.

Wood of this tree is pliable and resistant to splitting. Native Americans were familiar with these features of elm and they used it for the production of canoes.

Elms were abundant in North America until 1930 when a fungal disease called Dutch Elm Disease was accidentally introduced and spread by elm bark beetles. The fungus destroyed thousands of trees. A healthy American elm tree can survive 200 to 300 years in the wild, but one affected by the fungus usually dies before it is 30 years old.

Luckily, the tree produces many seeds.

