

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Fast-growing tree, distinguished by small toothed leaves about 1-2½ inches (3-7 cm) long and half as wide, and pointed at the tip. Deciduous.

Mature trees reach a height of 50-70 ft, with a round crown of slender, spreading, ascending branches.

leaves

Unlike other elms, the leaf base is usually symmetrical, forming a nearly even “V”.

Leaves are smooth and dark green above, paler and nearly hairless beneath, and alternate.

bark

Rough, gray or brown, and shallowly furrowed at maturity. Twigs are nearly hairless with small, blunt buds. Wood is brittle & easily damaged during storms.

flower

Spring flowering. Small greenish flowers with no petals and form

fruit

drooping clusters of 2 to 5.

A single seed forms in the center of each smooth, flattened, circular, 10-15 mm wide fruit.

note

The native slippery elm and American elm typically have leaves that are greater than 3 inches (7.3 cm) long, with unequal heart-shaped leaf bases, and leaf margins with double teeth.



flower color

Elevation:
3500- 8000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Grasslands, riparian areas, woodlands & forests.

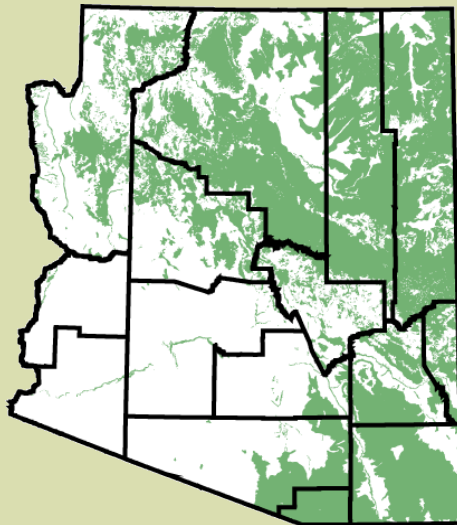
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Other species of elms (*Ulmus* and the close relative *Zelkova*), especially younger plants, look similar to Siberian elm. Some may even confuse it with choke-cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and hackberry (*Celtis* sp.).

Dry to mesic prairies and stream banks are vulnerable to Siberian elm invasion. Thickets of seedlings soon form around seed-producing trees, bare ground areas, animal and insect mounds, and other disturbed areas.

Can survive under conditions not easily tolerated by other species, taking advantage of open ground and resources otherwise used by native plants. Fast growing seedlings quickly overtake native vegetation.

SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

