ARNOLD ARBORETUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
YORK
NICAL
W. C. DENBULLETIN
OF
POPULAR INFORMATION

JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

JULY 23, 1915

European Elms. There is probably more confusion in the identification and proper naming of these trees in American parks and gardens than of any other group of trees, and it is only in very recent years that English botanists have been able to reach what appear to be sound conclusions in regard to them. The confusion started with Linnaeus who believed that all the European Elms belonged to one species, and it has been increased by the appearance of natural hybrids of at least two of the species and by the tendency of seedlings to show much variation from the original types. There are five species in Europe; the first of these is

Ulmus campestris. It is this tree which is generally spoken of as the English Elm in eastern Massachusetts where it was planted more than a century ago and where it has grown to a larger size than any other tree planted in this region. The Paddock Elms, which were once the glory of Tremont Street, and the great English Elms which stood on Boston Common until a few years ago were of this species, and large specimens can still be found in the suburbs of the city. *Ulmus campestris* is a tall tree with dark rough bark, massive ascending branches, comparatively small, rough, ovate leaves with hairy petioles not more than one-fifth of an inch long, and young branchlets covered with short soft hairs. In England and the United States it very rarely produces fertile seeds but great quantities of suckers by which it is propagated. This tree possibly only grows naturally in the hedge rows and parks of southern England where it may be indigenous. It was largely planted in the Royal Park at Avanguez, near Madrid, toward the end of the sixteenth century, but it has been usually believed that these trees were imported from England. The trees,

1915. "European Elms." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 1(14), 53-53. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320412>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/226132>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320412>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/320412>

Holding Institution

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Sponsored by

IMLS LG-70-15-0138-15

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.