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# POPULAR INFORMATION

#### JAMAICA PLAIN, MASS.

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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,

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however, at Avanguez produce fertile seeds in abundance and Henry suggests (*Trees of Great Britain*, VII. 1908) "that this tree may be a true native of Spain, indigenous in the alluvial plains of the great rivers now almost deforested." A dwarf Elm tree with small leaves is now usually considered a seedling form of *Ulmus campestris* (var. *viminalis*). There are forms in cultivation with leaves variegated with yellow (var. *vilminalis aurea*) and with white (var. *viminalis marginata*).

Ulmus nitens. This is perhaps the most variable of Elm trees in habit and one of the most widely distributed of the European trees. It may be distinguished from Ulmus campestris by its less deeply furrowed bark, mostly glabrous branchlets, longer, often obovate leaves, lustrous and usually smooth on the upper surface, with petioles from one-quarter to one-half an inch long. The seeds of this tree have been sold for years by European seedsmen under the name of Ulmus campestris, and a great many specimens of this Elm have been planted in the United States in the last fifty years under that Ulmus nitens is a common tree in the southern, midland and name. eastern counties of England, and ranges through central and southern Europe to the Caucasus and probably to northeastern Asia. In England trees of this Elm occur with a broad head of spreading and more or less pendulous branches. This form is often called the Herefordshire Elm, as it is this particular form which is most often found in that part of England, and some of the old Herefordshire Elms are only surpassed in beauty by Ulmus americana as it sometimes grows in New England. The Cornish Elm, a tree with erect branches which form a narrow pyramidal head, is usually considered a variety of Ulmus nitens (var. stricta), although some modern authors treat it as a distinct species. This is the common Elm tree of Cornwall and some parts of Devonshire, and is also found in Brittany. The Guernsey, Jersey or Wheatley Elm (var. Wheatleyi) is another pyramidal tree which is believed to be a variety of the Cornish Elm, from which it differs in its rather broader head, its earlier flowers and wider leaves. It is sometimes called variety sarniensis. On one of the forms of Ulmus nitens (var. suberosa) the branchlets are furnished from the second to the tenth year with corky wings which are most developed on sucker shoots. The Elm of central Europe referred to as Ulmus nitens is of this variety, and young plants in the Arboretum raised from seeds collected in Hungary develop these wings when only a few years old. An interesting form of U. nitens (var. umbraculifera) is a tree with a dense globose head sent from Persia to Germany in This curious tree is doing well in the Arboretum and promises 1878. to grow here to a large size. Other interesting varieties are var. pendula, with very pendulous branches and branchlets, var. Dampieri, a fastigiate tree with a narrow pyramidal crown, and var. variegata with leaves blotched with white. This appears to be the most common of the Silver-leaved Elms and is often seen in American collections where it grows to a large size.

Ulmus glabra. This is the so-called Scotch Elm and is also known as U. montana and U. scabra. It is a tree with wide-spreading branches making a broad, open, round or flat-topped head, large leaves broadest above the middle, often three-lobed at the apex, dark green

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