

Siberian elm look alike

Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) may be confused with the three other species of elm in Wisconsin.



Siberian elm leaves and samaras



American elm leaf and samaras



Red elm leaf and samaras

Species	Leaves	Twigs and Buds	Bark	Fruit
Siberian elm (<i>Ulmus pumila</i>)	$\frac{3}{4}$ - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " long, $\frac{1}{3}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide; base nearly symmetrical ; singly toothed ; veins not forking ; upper surface dark green, smooth; lower surface light green, may have tufts of hairs in vein axils	Twigs gray-brown; hairy to sparsely hairy; buds $\frac{1}{8}$" , round , purplish brown scales somewhat hairy , esp. at edges	Tree 30 – 80' tall; older bark with interlacing ridges, deep furrows; inner orange bark sometimes visible	Flat, nearly round samara; hairless ; tip cleft with two small lobes
American elm (<i>Ulmus americana</i>)	3 – 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide; base asymmetrical ; double toothed ; veins not forking; upper surface dark green, smooth to slightly rough; lower surface light green, hairless to soft hairy with tufts of hairs in vein axils	Twigs brown; hairy or smooth; buds brown with pointed tips and reddish scales , somewhat hairy around edges	Tree 60-125' tall; older bark with interlacing ridges, deep furrows	Flat, egg-shaped samara; dense fringe of hairs around edge ; tip cleft with two hook-like lobes
Red elm / slippery elm (<i>Ulmus rubra</i>)	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 7" long, 2-4: wide; base asymmetrical ; double toothed ; ~half the veins fork towards the tip ; upper surface medium to dark green, rough from stiff, short hairs; lower surface light green with stiff hairs, dense tufts in vein axils	Twigs gray to gray-brown; hairy; buds up to $\frac{1}{4}$ ", elliptic; hairy at tip with hairy brown to blackish scales ; flower buds covered with rusty-colored hairs	Tree 60 – 100' tall; older bark with somewhat shallow ridges and furrows generally running parallel	Flat, egg-shaped to oblong samara; hairy only in center directly over seed
Rock elm (<i>Ulmus thomasi</i>)	2-5" long; 1-3" wide; base nearly symmetrical; double toothed ; veins not forking; upper surface medium to dark green, somewhat shiny, hairless or rough with stiff hairs; lower surface light green, softly hairy with no tufts of hairs in vein axils	Twigs reddish brown, hairy; Buds pointed at tip , somewhat hairy, brown scales	Tree 50-100' tall; older bark thick, somewhat spongy; coarse interlacing ridges with deep furrows between	Flat, egg-shaped to oblong samara; surface softly hairy, denser fringes of hair around edge ; tip cleft or hooked to one side