

## 'Drake' Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia* 'Drake')

A fast-growing, nearly evergreen tree, 'Drake' Chinese Elm forms a graceful, spreading, rounded canopy of long, arching, and somewhat weeping branches with shiny, dark green, leathery leaves.

The tree is evergreen in the southern extent of its range. The showy, exfoliating bark reveals random, mottled patterns of grey, green, orange, and brown, adding great textural and visual interest, especially to its winter silhouette. Clusters of brown seeds cling to branches in fall (pictured lower left).

The Chinese Elm species can reach 80 feet in height but this cultivar probably grows to about 40 to 50 feet tall. It makes an ideal shade, specimen, street or parking lot tree, provided it is trained and pruned to allow for vehicular and pedestrian clearance below. They look very nice planted in a grove or along a street.



Chinese Elm will grow in full sun on a wide range of soils, adapting easily to extremes in pH (including alkaline) or moisture, and tolerates cold, urban heat, and wind. Trees will look their best, though, when grown in moist, well-drained, fertile soil but they adapt to drought and the extremes of urban sites.

### Information Source:

Gilman, E. F. and Watson, D.G. (1993). *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Drake': 'Drake' Chinese Elm. University of Florida. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/st653>

Photos by: Alicia Lamborn

