

## **Chinese Elm (Ulmus Parvifolia) Bonsai Care**

### **About**

Chinese Elms are a strong and adaptable species which makes them ideal for beginners. They tend to develop gnarled, aged bark and dense canopies which take well to wire and clip and grow methods.

Native to east asia, these species will grow up to 60 feet if left unchecked.

Chinese elm may be grown indoors or out, however they are semi-deciduous so leaf drop is common. They form a graceful upright rounded canopy with dense clusters of small, dark green leaves.

### **Placement**

A Chinese Elm can be grown indoors with enough lighting. It can live outside, but will die in temperatures below 45 degrees unless it's well protected and insulated - so inside for the winter is best.

Make sure it gets plenty of sun (6 hours or so) with a quality grow light when indoors, or on a windowsill (south facing preferred.)

Bring it inside for the season when the temperature is reaching 40 degrees, and bring it out when all chances of freezing for the season are gone.

### **Watering**

Chinese elms should be watered before soil is completely dry and should be planted in well draining soil. Do not allow soil to dry completely.

## **Fertilizing**

Trees should be fertilized with a dilute liquid fertilizer every 2 weeks during the growing season and once a month in the winter months. Alternatively, a slow release pellet fertilizer may be used year round.

## **Pruning & Trimming**

Prune new growth back to a maximum of one new set of leaves. Never remove all of the new growth in one go. Wiring may be done to young, green branches, but lignated wood may be brittle.

## **Repotting**

Repotting elms should be done every every 2-3 years depending on how vigorous its growth is.

Repotting should be done in mid-summer, when the tree is at it's least fragile state, and you should avoid removing more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the root mass on root pruning.

## **Diseases, Insects & Other Pests**

Chinese elm can be infested with pests such as aphids, mites and other common garden pests. Note that it is NOT susceptible to Dutch Elm disease, which can be fatal to elms in general.

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