

Cedar Elm Tree (*Ulmus crassifolia*)

Native Range: Central and South Texas north to Arkansas

Sun/Shade: Prefers full sun; part shade OK

Landscape Use: Cedar Elms are quality shade trees that are especially beautiful in spring when they first leaf out with bright green foliage. Though their leaves are small, they also provide attractive orange fall foliage. What they lack in leaf size is made up for by their vast number of leaves. Their growth rate can be sped up with good soil and watering. They are common throughout San Antonio and the Hill Country. Huge Cedar Elms can be seen at the Witte Museum and here at Helotes Creek. They are sometimes mistaken for Live Oak trees because of their similar colored dark trunk bark.

Size: On bottomlands near streams they can get very large, up to 80 feet tall. When close together they can create a forest effect growing tall and narrow; if planted in the open they will spread out with a broader crown. These small Cedar Elm trees are babies from their mother trees up above. They were grown from seeds that fell into nursery pots and produced thousands of seedlings. They were raised and are now about 4 years old. In the ground they would now be twice this size.

Type: Deciduous Shade Tree

Drought Tolerance: Very drought tolerant but looks best with regular watering.

Soil: Not particular about soil as long as it drains well and does not remain constantly wet. Does well in rocky soil or even better with soil enhancement.

Water: Smart Watering Principle=Water well when first planted then allow to dry slightly, without wilting, then water deeply again, etc. Easy Watering Principle= Water every day the first week; every second day the second week; every third day the third week; every fourth day the fourth week; every fifth day the fifth week. A soaking rainfall should last for about two weeks worth of watering. Do not keep constantly wet.

Fertilizer: Looks even better with regular fertilization.

Maintenance Tips: This tree balances itself out nicely and lower limbs can be removed as desired.

Rating: Rates high as a landscape plant.

Pictures: See the plant picture book in the appropriate section.