Top 5 Elms for USDA Zone 4

1. **Commendation** – An interesting hybrid of Accolade, Siberian, and *Ulmus minor*. Excellent form when young, interesting bark texture and lower maintenance than Accolade or Cathedral. Limited availability.

2. **Triumph** – More upright and narrow than Accolade. Easier to train as a young tree. Moderate availability.

3. **New Harmony** – Another USDA selection of American elm (*U. americana*). Appears to have superior form when compared to Princeton and Valley Forge. Limited availability.


5. **Accolade** – Probably the most common elm out there today. Still a great choice – fast grower and tough. Widely available.

Top 5 Reasons to Plant Elms NOW!

1. Incredible growth rate – only comparable species are silver and Freeman maple.

2. Many different forms are now available. Everything from the classic American elm vase-shape to compact “ornamentals”.

3. Many new selections have better resistance to elm leaf beetle than some of the earlier releases.

4. Tolerant of many different soil conditions. Most of these trees are at home in the park, on the boulevard, or in a backyard.

5. Excellent ash replacement – with a diverse genetic background. Most urban forests are already deficient in the *Ulmus* genus.

Top 5 Concerns with Elms

1. They grow like crazy! Do you have enough time and staff to maintain them properly? Buy a copy of *Pruning Young Elms* from MTGF (MTGF.org) to get started out right.

2. Watch out for Japanese beetle. Elms are their favorite only after linden! Check out the information from Dr. Chris Williamson on JB control.

3. Availability is very limited for many varieties – ask your local grower for varieties you don’t see listed. Demand creates supply!

4. Give ‘em enough room to grow! Many elms, especially the big Americans, don’t like to be crowded. In a boulevard space trees at 40 to 50 ft. This also creates better structure and less branch inclusions.

5. No elm is immune to DED. Continue to scout as you would for any elm. Prune out symptomatic branches and continue to monitor for repeat infection or flare-ups.