

Ulmus minor 'Sarniensis'

Guernsey elm, Jersey elm, Wheatley elm, Southampton elm



Ulmus minor 'Sarniensis' (monumental elm) (synonym Wheatleyi, Monumentalis) is thought to be native to the island of Guernsey and first described in 1815 by Scottish geologist John MacCulloch. Sarnia is thus the Latin name for Guernsey. This elm has a very characteristic and recognisable form: a perfectly straight trunk with a narrow pyramidal and dense crown up to twenty-five metres tall and a maximum of ten metres wide. Grows more vigorously, taller and with a more attractive form than *Ulmus* 'Cornubiensis' which it resembles.

The monumental elm has a very small, almost round, glossy, dark green leaf, with characteristic asymmetrical base. In the autumn this elm changes to a lovely yellow. The leaf emerges later than other elms and also persists for longer. The bark flakes off in narrow bands. Short and rigid branches are arranged horizontally. The blossom of *Ulmus minor* 'Sarniensis' is red-brown and the flowers are arranged in clusters on the twigs. The seeds also hang in bunches, with an oval samara around the nuts and without stalks.

Its beauty and form once made this elm the ideal city tree. It is also very resistant to wind and coastal wind. But it has minimal resistance to Dutch elm disease, making it fundamentally no longer a viable option. Old plantings can still be found in Utrecht, The Hague and Amsterdam, and it is still propagated for monumentality and heritage value. But in future, this elm can better be substituted by *Ulmus* 'Columella' and *Ulmus* 'Fiorente'. It used to be grafted to a height of two metres on *Ulmus x hollandica* 'Belgica', meaning different barks were clearly visible.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, shade trees

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, park, central reservation, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, coastal area | **Pavement:** open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: narrow pyramidal | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 20 - 25 m | **Width:** 8 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 7B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** butterflies | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, discrete, small | **Flower colour:** red-brown | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, lanceolate, polished, dentate | **Autumn colour:** golden yellow | **Fruits:** winged, small | **Fruit colour:** pale brown | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** furrowed | **Twig colour:** brown

