

# Ulmus 'Plantijn'

## Plantijn Elm



*Ulmus* 'Plantijn' ('Plantijn' elm) is a broad oval elm that later develops a densely branched vase shape, six to eight metres wide, and fifteen to eighteen metres tall. This selection grows at a slower rate than 'Lobel' and 'Dodoens' and continues to develop an upright main trunk at a mature age but bifurcates or forks, producing dense side branches which grow erect from the main trunk: pruning in the juvenile phase is therefore key. In older trees, the grey twigs hang down decoratively, further enhancing the vase shape. 'Plantijn' is part of the Wageningen five and was released in 1973 as the third generation of elms by the Dutch Forestry Research Station 'De Dorschkamp' in Wageningen, the Netherlands. The tree is a cross between *Ulmus glabra* 'Exoniensis', *Ulmus wallichiana* and *Ulmus minor* and was named after medieval French book printer and publisher Christoffel Plantijn.

The foliage of *Ulmus* 'Plantijn' is greyish green, smooth and curls up in dry weather, turning yellow in the autumn. The light green flowers appear around March and April and are arranged in dense clusters on short stems. These are followed by flat, winged, round brown nuts. 'Plantijn' elm has a smooth, silver-grey bark that later becomes deeply grooved with vertical, black-grey grooves.

*Ulmus* 'Plantijn' is the least wind resistant of the Wageningen five - although still tolerates some exposure to wind. Paving, flooding and wet soils are not a problem and this tree thrives on moist, airy soils. *Ulmus* 'Plantijn' ultimately becomes the broadest of the Wageningen five, it has good resistance to Dutch elm disease and is ideal for use in, amongst others, avenues, wide streets in road verges, parks, industrial sites and landscape situations.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, shade trees | **Topiary on stem:** espalier, pleached

### USE

**Location:** street, avenue, park, central reservation, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Landscape planting, Solid planting, urban planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide oval, vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 15 - 18 m | **Width:** 6 - 8 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 9B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** neutral, alkaline | **Extreme environments:** tolerates air pollution, tolerant to short-term flooding, resistant to Dutch elm disease 3

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** raceme, discrete | **Flower colour:** pale green | **Flowering period:** March - April | **Leaf colour:** grey-green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, big, smooth, serrate | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** discrete, winged, raceme, nut | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey, grey-black | **Bark:** slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** brown | **Twigs:** vertical branches, thickly branched, long shoots | **Root system:** deep, shallow, extensive, highly branched, central root, on own root

