

Ulmus 'Sapporo Autumn Gold'

'Sapporo Autumn Gold' Elm



Ulmus 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' ('Sapporo Autumn Gold' elm) is an American cross from the same sowing as *Ulmus* 'Cathedral' and arose from *Ulmus pumila* x *Ulmus japonica*. This cross was selected in 1958 by research scientist Gene Smalley of Wisconsin University, Madison, United States. The cultivar was named after the botanic garden of Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan - which is the source of the seeds. *Ulmus* 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' was released in 1975 as one of the first American resistant varieties. It has an untidy habit without a main trunk and the crown is asymmetrical, forming a rounded vase shape, twelve to fifteen metres tall and twelve metres wide.

The leaf of 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' is oval, buds bronze and then turns glossy dark green. The special quality of this tree - already alluded to in its name - is the wonderful, bright golden yellow autumn colour. In March, even before the leaves emerge, the selection produces clusters of red-violet flowers. After flowering, brown, winged nuts appear. *Ulmus* 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' has a dark black-grey bark which is grooved in older trees.

'Sapporo Autumn Gold' elm has good resistance to Dutch elm disease. However, this selection does not cope with wind and its untidy growth habit means it requires a lot of pruning to ensure a good tree shape. Certainly, on rich or fertile soils the elm displays an unruly growth habit: this can make it vulnerable to breakage. However, on drier, sheltered (sandy) soils the delightful bright yellow autumn colour of *Ulmus* 'Sapporo Autumn Gold' can certainly be of added ornamental value in parks and landscapes.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, shade trees

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, countryside | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 12 - 15 m | **Width:** 8 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** low in nutrients, moderately rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** butterflies | **Extreme environments:** resistant to Dutch elm disease 5

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, discrete | **Flower colour:** red-violet | **Flowering period:** March - March | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, dark green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, big, serrate | **Autumn colour:** golden yellow | **Fruits:** winged, small, nut | **Fruit colour:** grey-brown | **Bark colour:** grey-black | **Bark:** furrowed, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** grey | **Twigs:** bare, horizontal branches, pendulous, long shoots | **Root system:** extensive, on own root

