

Northern Empress® Japanese Elm (RFM-74)

Ulmus davidiana var. *japonica* 'Burgundy Glow' (Family *Ulmaceae*)

Description: A very hardy small to medium sized growing elm with a rounded crown, open branching, and attractive summer and fall foliage. Fall foliage changes from green to apricot-orange to burgundy-red before leaf drop. Size and form permit use in smaller homeowner and business landscapes, parks, and boulevard plantings.

Hardiness: USDA hardiness zone 3 - 6

Mature Size: Height: 28', Spread: 24'

Form: Rounded open crown.

Growth Rate: Medium.

Foliage: Deciduous, leaves are smaller in size than American elm.

Summer: Medium green

Autumn: Advancing fall color changing from an apricot-orange to burgundy-red before leaf drop.

Texture: Medium

Flowers: Non-showy, perfect, appearing before foliage emergence in early spring.

Fruit: Winged samara, brown in color when ripe.

Light Preference: Full sun.

Soil Preference: Well drained soils, pH adaptable and tolerant of higher pH soils. Northern Empress® has shown moderate to good drought tolerance.

Insects and Diseases: Minimally affected by black leaf spot of elm. Inherent resistance to elm leaf beetles and Dutch Elm Disease (DED).

Propagation: Grafting, tissue culture or softwood cuttings.

Ornamental Attributes: Northern Empress® Japanese Elm is a unique, small statured elm selection hardy into USDA climatic zone 3 with excellent dependable burgundy red fall coloration, unusual among hardy elm cultivars.

Landscape Attributes: Recommended for use as a small to medium sized ornamental tree in urban landscape planting areas. This is especially relevant where available space or overhead power lines are a concern and where hardiness of other elm cultivars may be an issue.

Comments: Northern Empress® Japanese elm adds a useful elm cultivar to diversify the availability of elm selections returning to the landscape.

Availability: Pending



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