

Jefferson Elm is a monumental tree

The **Jefferson Elm** (*Ulmus americana* 'Jefferson') parent tree towers above the wide pathway that connects the Washington Monument and the Capitol of the United States. Planted on the National Mall near Jefferson Drive in the 1930's and unscathed by Dutch elm disease, it's become a monumental tree growing among monuments. Its broad-spreading canopy casts equal-opportunity shade on tourists, joggers, lobbyists, legislators, protesters and children who play on the expansive lawn near the twirling carousel and Smithsonian museum headquarters.



Leaves deepen to dark green earlier in spring than most of its neighboring elms and hold their dark color longer in the season before turning bright yellow in autumn. Open, U-shaped branch unions, arching limbs and an upright vase shade distinguish this disease tolerant cultivar that was jointly introduced in 2005 by the US National Arboretum and the National Park Service.



P O Box 189 | 9500 SE 327th Ave | Boring, OR 97009

503-663-4128 | Fax 503-663-2121

Toll-Free 1-800-825-8202 | Toll-Free Fax 1-800-283-7537

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