

# ArborTags



The leaf is anything but slippery. Between 4-7 inches long and half as wide, each leaf is abruptly pointed with a rounded base. As with most Elms, the sides are unequal, and in this case, very unequal. Doubly saw-toothed, these thick leaves are like sandpaper above but softer below.

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*Ulmus rubra*

## Slippery Elm

**Red Elm, Soft Elm**

*Ulmus rubra*

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The seeds which appear in the early Spring are called "samaras". They have a single seed surrounded by a thin wing like a flying saucer. This wing is hairless and less than an inch.

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The tree got its name from the inner bark which is slippery. That glue-like substance has been used for cough syrup and other medications. The bark is dark brown and can be deeply furrowed.

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Like the famous American Elm the branches of the Slippery Elm are fountain-like, spouting skyward, while the ends of the branches are forced to deal more directly with the reality of gravity.

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