SIBERIAN ELM

Top & middle: Siberian elm in early fall, when it is actively growing. Bottom: Elm leaves in winter.

Scientific name: Ulmus pumila

Identification

A fast-growing tree ranging 50-70 feet. It has thin, serrated (saw-toothed) leaves growing on slender branches that form a rounded crown. Bark is light gray-brown with furrows. Flowers are greenish and grow in clusters, appearing in March or April before dropping as round, papery seeds. In the winter, the tree is recognizable by small, dark bulbous growths on its stems (see middle photo).

Why they're an issue

Siberian elms are an invasive species that can spread rapidly and quickly out-compete native plants, especially in sparsely vegetated or disturbed areas. While elms do not usually pose the same fire risk as tamarisk or Russian olive, they still form dense, uniform stands that can increase wildfire severity while displacing native plants.

Initial treatment

Same as tamarisk and Russian olive. Siberian elms trees can first be dealt with via cut-stump treatments, where trees are cut nearly flush with the ground and herbicide is carefully applied to the stump's cambium (living outer layer). Soon after, stumps will start to grow resprouts.

Retreatment *(instructions on back)*

Landowners should remove resprouts from stumps and carefully re-apply herbicide where new plant tissue was exposed. In addition, any new saplings growing from the ground should be pulled by hand or with a weed wrench. This is best done in late summer or early fall, when the plants are actively growing.

SIBERIAN ELM *Retreatment*

1. For **resprouts**: Remove & treat

Why we recommend this method
This treatment method is relatively low-effort, and uses little herbicide. It's effective at stopping resprouts before they grow too much, and discourages their growth in the future.

Timing
The best time is **late summer or early fall**, when trees are actively growing and having full-leaf expansion. Late spring is an OK backup.

Materials
Herbicide, dye, applicator, small cutting device like pruners, personal protective equipment, trash bag or safe location for burning

At-a-Glance Instructions*

1. **Prune** resprouts coming up on or around stumps
2. Within 5 minutes, apply **herbicide** to the cut surfaces
3. **Dispose** of biomass or **pile to burn**. Do not scatter!

2. For **saplings**: Pull

Why we recommend this method
It's straightforward and requires minimal equipment. It neutralizes saplings before they become a bigger issue!

Timing
Anytime. At least once a year; frequently enough that sapling diameters are 2.5" or less. Pulling is easiest when soils are moist.

Materials
Shovel/weed wrench (optional); trash bag or safe location for burning *(not in Moab City)*

Instructions

1. **Pull** saplings by hand or with a weed wrench.
2. **Dispose** of saplings or **pile to burn**. Do not scatter!