

HOT TOPICS

Goal: 1 million Liberty elms by the year 2000

HARRISVILLE, N.H.—A relatively new type of disease-resistant American elm is replacing those lost to Dutch elm disease on golf courses and landscapes.

Goal set by the Elm Research Institute is 1 million American Liberty elms (*Ulmus americana libertas*) in U.S. landscapes by the year 2000.

The effort has begun in such diverse climates as Unity, Maine; Birmingham, Ala.; Pueblo, Col.; Jackson, Minn.; Deerfield Beach, Fla.; and Cimarron, N.M. The tree is hardy in zones 2 through 9, and is tolerant to pollution and other urban conditions.

The Liberty elm is a thoroughly native American elm, not a hybrid. It's a direct descendent of selected American elm parents that proved their ability to fend off disease when inoculated with DED fungus. Parent trees are still thriving at 35 years of age.

The Liberty elm has the ability to compartmentalize, thereby creating extremely narrow capillaries, so if the DED fungus is introduced, it is prevented from moving through the tree and cutting off nutrient supplies.

The trees are propagated through cuttings rather than seed to preserve the disease-resistant characteristic.

At the same time, the Liberty series offers landscape managers diversity with six different cultivars.

Golf course applications—When American elms reigned, there were 3000 of them at the Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Now 100 are left, and those are protected with injections of ERI's fungicide.

Carey Mitchelson, the golf course superintendent, obtained 12 American Liberty elms six years ago. When they reached the required size, they were planted on the course, for donations of only \$100 each. The elms are now 25 feet tall and have the classic shape of the American elm.

"When those trees grew to such a height so rapidly," says Mitchelson, "and we sold all the trees to the membership so quickly, that's when we decided we should do this on a larger scale."

The golf course took out a \$300 membership, which entitled it to the 125 young elms. A Boy Scout troop helps care for them in a nursery on the course. Mitchelson's own son Justin, a scout, will organize the transplanting of 25 elms into the community of Grosse Pointe.

"The trees are doing really well," says Mitchelson. "We're very happy with them."

Landscape applications—Before Jim Turner became the owner of North Monroe (La.) Landscape Service, he was the landscape manager at North Monroe Hospital. There, he designed the landscape with 28 tree species, including American



Liberty elms like this one are catching on fast for landscape managers who want to replace American elms killed by Dutch elm disease.

Liberty elms.

In an unusual freeze in 1989, when temperatures were below 10 degrees for 10 days, the Liberty elms came through. Only one has been lost, and that to a bulldozer during construction.

Patricia Crow, landscape designer with Balmori Associates in New Haven, Conn., says elms are "a very important tree in the landscape and have been historically one of the best street trees ever, until the Dutch elm disease struck. They're really unparalleled in terms of their scale and their form and the quality of light they give.

"They have neither too dense a shade or too thin," Crow notes. "It's just a wonderful light shade with a lot of movement in it, because of the way the branches move. They're not stiff; they're flexible. Even the younger ones begin to have that quality of

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movement that the older trees have."

Her company has specified American Liberty elms for two recent projects. "We're very much interested in trying to re-introduce them into the landscape in certain situations," Crow says. "Certainly for historical projects, locations in public areas, on campuses. There are so many uses for them."

For more information on American Liberty elms, call 1-800-FOR-ELMS (367-3567) or write: Elm Research Institute, Elm Street, Harrisville, NH 03450.

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ment and ways smaller landscape contractors can successfully compete with larger companies in the '90s.

ALCA's presentations feature customer service, cost management, marketing, and how to successfully begin a design/build business.

Keynote speakers for Expo '93 are Ty Boyd, well-known motivational speaker and author, and John and Greg Rice, co-founders of Think Big, Inc. Boyd will focus

on how to face the challenges of the '90s without compromising personal ethics. The Rice brothers will cover creative problem solving.

The PLCAA benefit auction again features a variety of products from green industry suppliers.

ALCA's "Breakfast of Champions" sessions will be held each morning of the exposition. Discussion topics include selling maintenance services; client relations; and ways to get a new business off the ground.

ALCA also features an all day, pre-conference seminar by Bob Whiting: "Hiring and Firing—Building a Strong Team."

The popular annual outdoor equipment demonstration rounds out the show on the morning of Nov. 18.

It's still not too late to register. For more information on air fares, lodging and full show schedules, call one of the following numbers:

PLCAA: (404) 977-5222;

ALCA: (703) 620-6363;

PGMS: (410) 584-9754.

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS

NOVEMBER

9-12: New York Turfgrass Turf & Grounds Expo, Rochester (N.Y.) Riverside Convention Center. Contact: NYSTA, (800) 873-8873.

11-13: Landscape Maintenance Association's Equipment Show & Conference, Delta Orlando Resort. Contacts: exhibit space: Betsy Laird, (813) 731-6024; tickets: (813) 965-8604.

14-18: Green Industry Exposition, Baltimore, Md. Contacts: ALCA members call (703) 620-6363; PLCAA members call (800) 458-3466; PGMS members call (410) 667-1833.

16-17: Urban Tree Care Seminar, Howard Johnson Motel, Lafayette, Ind. Contacts: Sueann Smith, (317) 494-7225 or Harvey Holt, (317) 494-3585.

18-19: Midwest Reconstruction & Cleanup Conference, Washington, D.C. Contact: King Communications Group, (202) 638-4260.

18-20: National Arborist Association's TCI Expo '93, Cleveland Convention Center. Contact: (800) 733-2622.

19: National Water Features Association Trade Show, Orlando (Fla.) Twin Towers. Contact: NWFA, (407) 849-4312.

29-Dec. 1: North Central Turfgrass Expo, Pheasant Run Resort & Expo Center, St. Charles, Ill. Contact: NCTE, (312) 616-0800.

30-Dec. 2: Southern Turfgrass Association Conference and Show, New Orleans, La. Contact: (901) 377-7194.

DECEMBER

1-3: New Jersey Turfgrass Expo, Garden State Convention & Exhibit Center. Contact: (908) 932-9271.

1-3: Rocky Mountain Turf Conference & Trade Show, Currigan Hall, Denver, Colo. Contact: (303) 688-3440.

1-3: Golf Course Europe, Palais des Congres, Paris, France. Contact: Boris Franckomme, (510) 526-6922.

3: "Dealing with the Competition of the '90s," presented by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America and the Texas Association of Landscape Contractors. Contact: ALCA, (800) 395-2522.

6-9: Ohio Turf Foundation Conference & Show, Columbus (Ohio) Convention Center. Contact: OTF, (614) 292-2601.

7-9: New Jersey Expo '93: Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, Atlantic City, N.J. Contact: N.J. Turfgrass Ass'n., (908) 821-7134.

7-9: Georgia Turfgrass Conference & Show, Georgia International Convention Center, Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Georgia Turfgrass Association, (404) 975-4124.

8-9: Environmental Care Ass'n. of Idaho Convention & Trade Show, Weston Plaza, Twin Falls, Ida. Contact: Ben Miller, (208) 342-8899.

14: Rutgers Univ. Roadside and Vegetation Management Seminar, New Brunswick, N.J. Contact: Cook College, (908) 932-9271.

15: LCAP Winter Educational Meeting, Embers Inn, Carlisle, Penn. Contact: LCAP headquarters, (717) 236-2050.

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