**Siberian Elm**

*(Ulmus pumila)*
A fast-growing, extremely drought-tolerant tree commonly found throughout Colorado. Often considered invasive and prone to breakage, Siberian Elm is highly susceptible to **elm leaf beetle**, **aphids**, **scale**, **canker diseases**, and structural decline as it ages.


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**Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar**

**Icons:** 🌸 Spring | 🌞 Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

| Problem | Type | Active Season | Icons |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Elm leaf beetle** | Insect | Late Spring–Summer | 🌸 🌞 |
| **Elm leaf miner** | Insect | Spring | 🌸 |

| Problem | Type | Active Season | Icons |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Aphids** | Insect | Spring–Fall | 🌸☀️🍂 |
| **European elm scale / other scales** | Insect/scale | Spring crawlers; visible year-round | 🌸❄️ |
| **Canker diseases (Nectria, Cytospora)** | Fungus | Spring–Fall | 🌸☀️🍂 |
| **Environmental drought stress / structural decline** | Abiotic | Summer–Fall | ☀️🍂 |

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**Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)**

| Problem | Common Symptoms | Treatment & Management |
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| **Elm Leaf Beetle** | • Skeletonized leaves<br>• Brown, lacy foliage<br>• Premature leaf drop in summer | • Systemic insecticides (pro-applied preferred)<br>• Remove leaf litter in fall<br>• Deep watering reduces stress |
| **Elm Leaf Miner** | • Serpentine tunnels inside leaves<br>• Browning patches<br>• Affected leaves drop early | • Often cosmetic<br>• Prune out heavily affected young shoots<br>• Professional treatment if severe |

| Problem | Common Symptoms | Treatment & Management |
|---|---|---|
| **Aphids (green, black, or woolly types)** | • Sticky honeydew on leaves<br>• Sooty mold<br>• Leaf curling or distortion | • Water spray to remove aphids<br>• Encourage natural predators<br>• Systemic treatments if population is high |
| **European Elm Scale / Other Scales** | • Black sooty mold from honeydew<br>• Yellowing leaves<br>• Dieback on branches if severe | • Treat crawler stage in late spring<br>• Apply horticultural oil in late winter<br>• Improve vigor through watering and mulch |
| **Canker Diseases (Nectria, Cytospora)** | • Sunken or swollen bark patches<br>• Dieback on individual branches<br>• Orange/tan fungal tissue beneath bark | • Remove infected limbs (sanitize tools)<br>• Prevent wounding from storms or pruning<br>• No chemical cure—focus on tree vigor |
| **Environmental Stress / Structural Decline** | • Brittle wood and frequent limb breakage<br>• Leaf scorching<br>• General thinning of canopy | • Water deeply every 2–3 weeks in summer<br>• Reduce soil compaction<br>• Structural pruning by a professional arborist |

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**When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic**

🔴 **When to Worry (action recommended)**

- Large sections of canopy thinning rapidly

- Extensive leaf skeletonizing (elm leaf beetle)
- Multiple dead branches developing each season
- Heavy sooty mold coating sidewalks/cars (aphids/scale outbreak)
- Canker lesions forming on trunk or major limbs
- Severe dieback after drought or wind events (structural weakness)

These signs may require **professional diagnosis or long-term management**.

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🟢 **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Mild leaf chewing or skeletonizing
- Light sooty mold on a few branches
- Small amounts of leaf miner tunneling
- Early leaf color in hot/dry summers
- Occasional twig dieback

These typically resolve with **routine watering, pruning, and natural predator activity**.