

Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*);



The Chinese Elms are another standard bonsai subject. They feature light-grey bark that flakes off in round flakes revealing the yellowish-brown inner bark. The leaves are small and leathery and discolouring brown in autumn, and remain very long on the branches. If they are kept out of the frost in winter the leaves will remain green and will only be pushed off by new growth. Elms are frost-hardy. Propagation is from seed or cuttings. In cold, wet climates the seeds can be sown in the open

immediately they are ripe. Otherwise they must be kept refrigerated and stratified before sowing in spring. The seedlings will appear in two to three weeks. Cuttings are made in early spring from strong semi-ripe wood taken from the outside branches. Elms can be grown in upright, slanted and literati styles. The outstanding styles are formal, informal and the broom.