featured tree Cynthia Orlando, ODF Public Affairs

Lacebark elm (Ulmus parvifolia)

Lacebark elm is a medium-sized tree with long arching branches and a graceful rounded canopy. Its foliage is rich, green and glossy with serrated edges. It features attractive exfoliating bark which is especially striking in winter.

This tree can adapt to many soil conditions and makes an attractive choice as a city street tree because of its ability to grow in adverse conditions - as well as its relative freedom from the diseases that have ravaged many other elm species. It's highly resistant, though not immune, to Dutch elm disease and is also very resistant to elf leaf beetle. Although some cultivars can reach a height of 70 feet, most Lacebarks reach only about 40 feet high and wide. This size suits most urban landscapes and yet still makes for a great shade tree.

Its fall color ranges from yellow to purple, and fall colors are unusually good when compared to other elms. The bark of Lacebark elm is especially striking in winter.

