

# Siberian Elm Sprouts

**Identification:** Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) is a deciduous tree with a woody stem, often incorrectly referred to as Chinese elm. The bark is light-gray with irregular furrows. The leaves are alternate on the branch, with single tooth margins. They are prolific self-seeders. As “volunteers” they can sprout and quickly grow into single stem trees or more shrub-like multi-trunked trees.



**Issues:** When allowed to grow in inappropriate locations, elm sprouts often become problematic. Elm sprouts frequently impede traffic visibility. When they grow too close to hardscape such as curbs, roads, and sidewalks they may eventually cause infrastructure damage. If sprouts are permitted to grow near signs, they may end up blocking important traffic control devices like stop signs.



**Who is responsible:** City code states that homeowners are responsible for maintaining the area between their property line and the curb line or centerline of the alley. This includes eliminating and controlling growth of weeds, including volunteer tree sprouts (City Code § 4.4.105; § 9.6.3).



**What are we asking?** Please remove volunteer elm sprouts while they are small and easier to control. See the following link for guidance on removal.

<https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wow/siberian-elm.pdf>



For more information visit the City of Colorado Springs Forestry website at <https://coloradosprings.gov/forestry>

