

Hardy Rubber Tree

Eucommia ulmoides

Family:

Eucommiaceae

USDA Hardiness Zone:

Zones 4 to 7

Origin:

Central China



Mature Size & Shape:

This medium sized tree grows 40' to 60' tall and 30-60' in spread with a pyramidal shape when young, becoming more rounded and spreading with age.

Leaves:

The alternate leaves resemble elm leaves, 3-6" long oval or oblong in shape with serrate margins. The tree gets its name because the leaves exude a rubbery substance when torn.

Bark, Twigs, & Buds:

The bark is gray-brown and furrowed on mature trees and is used in China for medicinal purposes. The twigs do not have a terminal bud, instead ending in a leaf.

Flowers & Fruit:

The tree is dioecious (separate male and female trees). Male and female flowers are insignificant, brownish green clusters. Female flowers yield flattened winged seeds about 1" to 1 1/2" long.

Information, Landscape Uses, & Maintenance:

While it prefers moist, well-drained soils it is adaptable to many soil types, except it does not tolerate wet soil. It is best used as a shade tree for streets and parks because of its attractive shiny leaves and resistance to insect and disease problems.

This Species within Salt Lake City's Urban Forest:

While there are very few hardy rubber trees in Salt Lake City, Urban Forestry is trialing this tree has a shade tree along streets where it can add to the diversity of the City's urban forest.

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