



## winged elm

*Ulmus alata*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta  
Class:  
Order:  
Family:

### FEATURES

The winged elm is also known as the wahoo elm. This deciduous tree may attain a height of 60 feet with a trunk diameter of two feet. The trunk may be single or divided. Some branches have wide corky "wings." The crown is narrow and oblong. The dark gray bark has shallow furrows. The buds are brown, pointed and up to one-fourth inch long. The simple leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. The leaf is elliptic to lance-shaped, pointed at the tip and up to three inches long. The edge of the leaf is doubly toothed. Each leaf is green and smooth on the upper surface and pale and hairy on the lower surface. The leafstalk is short, stout and hairy. Small, green, hairy flowers are produced in drooping clusters of two to seven. The oblong, winged fruit is about one-third inch long. It is hairy along the edges. The wing is notched at the top and surrounds a single seed.

### BEHAVIORS

The winged elm may be found in the southern one-fourth of Illinois. It grows on wooded slopes, dry cliffs and in low woodlands. Flowering occurs from February through March. The wood of this tree is used to produce tool handles and small, wooden articles.

### HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

### ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern 1/4

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.