

## Introduction

This spring issue is dedicated to the American Elm — most elegant, tolerant, and thrifty citizen — and to its preservation in the face of Dutch elm disease and phloem necrosis.

The introductory piece reviews an illustrated article from the heyday of our subject in the last century. There are then three papers by specialists on aspects of the tree and its afflictions. Finally, twelve alternatives to the elm are evaluated.

You will find our symposium controversial. It is meant to be! There is no instant and permanent cure to Dutch elm disease; nor is there another tree that combines the rapid growth, the graceful spreading limbs and broad open crown, and the extraordinary urban hardiness of the American elm. You will find some differences of opinion among the experts, too. Research continues and differences should, therefore, still be expected. We did not attempt to negotiate a false unanimity on your behalf. Nevertheless, our authors all agree with the view expressed in Gerald Lanier's Postscript: with dedication and care, this disease can be kept in check.

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