Northern Empress® Japanese Elm
(RFM-74)

*Ulmus davidiana* var. *japonica* ‘Burgundy Glow’ (Family Ulmaceae)

**Description:** A very hardy small to medium sized growing elm with a rounded crown, open branching, and attractive summer and fall foliage. Fall foliage changes from green to apricot-orange to burgundy-red before leaf drop. Size and form permit use in smaller homeowner and business landscapes, parks, and boulevard plantings.

**Hardiness:** USDA hardiness zone 3 - 6

**Mature Size:** Height: 28', Spread: 24'

**Form:** Rounded open crown.

**Growth Rate:** Medium.

**Foliage:** Deciduous, leaves are smaller in size than American elm.

Summer: Medium green

Autumn: Advancing fall color changing from an apricot-orange to burgundy-red before leaf drop.

**Texture:** Medium

**Flowers:** Non-showy, perfect, appearing before foliage emergence in early spring.

**Fruit:** Winged samara, brown in color when ripe.

**Light Preference:** Full sun.

**Soil Preference:** Well drained soils, pH adaptable and tolerant of higher pH soils. Northern Empress® has shown moderate to good drought tolerance.

**Insects and Diseases:** Minimally affected by black leaf spot of elm. Inherent resistance to elm leaf beetles and Dutch Elm Disease (DED).

**Propagation:** Grafting, tissue culture or softwood cuttings.

**Ornamental Attributes:** Northern Empress® Japanese Elm is a unique, small staturaed elm selection hardy into USDA climatic zone 3 with excellent dependable burgundy red fall coloration, unusual among hardy elm cultivars.

**Landscape Attributes:** Recommended for use as a small to medium sized ornamental tree in urban landscape planting areas. This is especially relevant where available space or overhead power lines are a concern and where hardiness of other elm cultivars may be an issue.

**Comments:** Northern Empress® Japanese elm adds a useful elm cultivar to diversify the availability of elm selections returning to the landscape.

**Availability:** Pending