



## Ulmus laevis 'Helena'



<b>Height</b>	15-25 m, fast growing
<b>Crown</b>	columnar, half-open crown
<b>Bark and branches</b>	grey
<b>Leaf</b>	shiny dark green
<b>Autumn colour</b>	yellow
<b>Flowers</b>	red, flowers in March-April
<b>Spines/thorns</b>	None
<b>Toxicity</b>	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
<b>Soil type</b>	loamy soil, sandy soil, peaty soil, calcareous soil
<b>Soil moisture</b>	withstand short flood
<b>Paving</b>	tolerates paving
<b>Winter hardiness zone</b>	5 (-28,8 to -23,4 °C)
<b>Wind resistance</b>	good
<b>Other resistances</b>	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind
<b>Fauna tree</b>	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind, valuable for butterflies
<b>Application</b>	avenues and broad streets
<b>Shape</b>	clearstem tree

'Helena' is a medium to large tree with a broad columnar to later oval crown that grows 15-25 tall. The young, brown-green, twigs are hairy and the old bark is dark grey and slightly grooved. The leaves are like those of the species *U. laevis*; inversely ovate and slightly glossy dark green. In autumn, it turns a beautiful yellow. The red blooms occur before the leaves sprout, so the small flowers are still somewhat conspicuous. 'Helena' grew from seed harvested from trees of *U. laevis* in an avenue in Eibergen. One of the seedlings stood out in 2007 for its uniform growth, was selected and introduced seven years later as 'Helena'. Although *U. laevis* is not completely resistant to Dutch elm disease, infections are rare in nature. In addition, 'Helena' is less susceptible to aphid infestations than other elms. The tree tolerates (sea) wind, temporarily very wet soil but also temporary drought.