

**F-CELM**     *Ulmus crassifolia* - *Celtis laevigata* / *Ilex decidua* / *Elymus virginicus* Forest  
Cedar Elm – Sugarberry / Possum-haw / Virginia Wild Rye Forest

**Associations and Alliances**

*Ulmus crassifolia* - *Celtis laevigata* / *Ilex decidua* /  
*Elymus virginicus* Forest

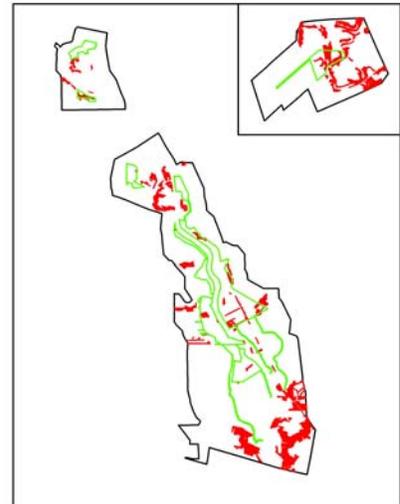
**Common Species**

*Ulmus crassifolia*  
*Quercus virginiana*  
*Celtis laevigata*  
*Prosopis glandulosa*  
*Elymus virginicus*

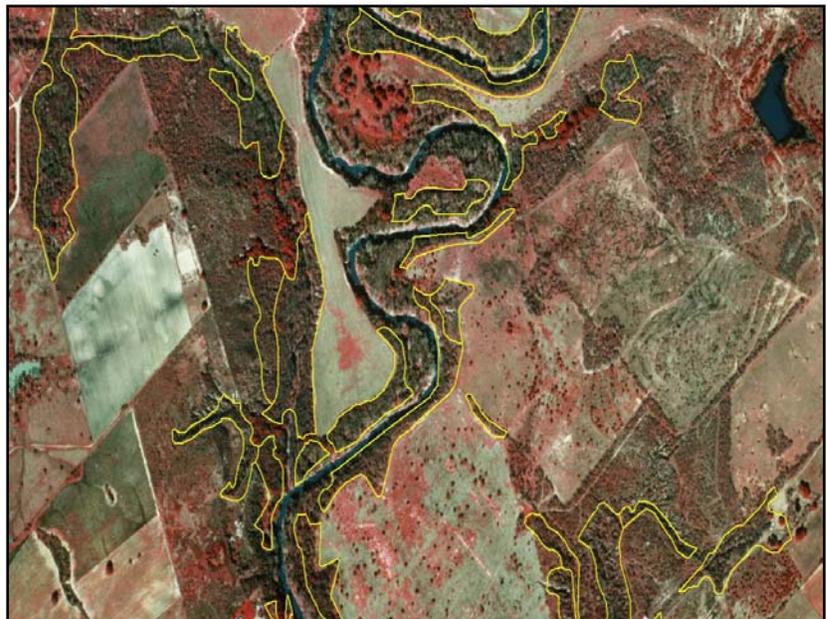
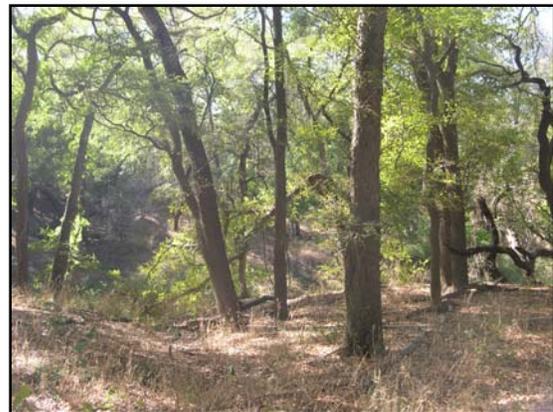
**Description**

This community occurs on the higher terraces and tributary banks along the San Antonio River in both SAAN units. The vegetation is dominated by *Ulmus crassifolia* with many associates including *Quercus virginiana*, *Celtis laevigata*, *Morus alba*, and *Prosopis glandulosa*. *Melia azedarach* and *Ligustrum japonicum* are also found in this type in urban areas. The shrub layer is sparse except in ravines where *Condalia hookeri*, *Diospyros texana*, and *Ptelea trifoliata* are common. The ground layer is primarily dominated by *Elymus virginicus* in semi-natural areas and by *Torilis arvensis* in the urban sites. This type was used to map some of the homogenous stands of *Celtis laevigata*, which may have led to some confusion between it and the Pecan - Sugarberry Forest map class. On the imagery this type was viewed as being shorter in stature than the other deciduous forest/woodland types. It also had a gray texture characteristic of winter deciduous vegetation on the 2003 imagery.

**Range and Distribution**



**Representative Ground Photo**



**Photo Signature Example**

**CEGL008468 *Ulmus crassifolia* – *Celtis laevigata* / *Ilex decidua* / *Elymus virginicus* Forest**

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Translated Name: Cedar Elm – Sugarberry / Possum-haw / Virginia Wild Rye Forest

Common Name: Cedar Elm – Sugarberry / Possum-haw / Virginia Wild Rye Forest

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**ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION**

The environmental factors that influence the composition and structure of this community are: climate, topography, soils, and possibly past management or chance events. This community occurs on the higher terraces and tributary banks along the San Antonio River. The community occurs on alluvium-derived sandy to clayey loams with good water availability. One site is on raised artificial levees (from fill dredged for channelization) and has been invaded by exotic species. Flooding of major proportions does not occur as it once did due to impoundments along the river.

**VEGETATION DESCRIPTION**

The canopy usually ranges from 15 to 20 m high with a cover of 70-90 percent, except upslope from the main area of this vegetation in narrow ravines where the canopy is less than 15 m with about 50% cover. The subcanopy cover is light at 30%, again except in the ravines where the smaller trees provide about 70% cover. The vegetation is strongly dominated by *Ulmus crassifolia*. Associates may include *Quercus virginiana* (observed, but not included in sample plots), *Celtis laevigata*, *Morus alba*, and *Prosopis glandulosa*. *Melia azedarach* and *Ligustrum japonicum* invade in urban areas. The shrub layer is sparse except in the ravines where *Condalia hookeri*, *Diospyros texana*, and *Ptelea trifoliata* from the adjacent *Prosopis glandulosa* var. *glandulosa* - *Celtis pallida* / *Opuntia* spp. - *Xylothamia palmeri* Woodland are important. The ground layer ranges from 10-40% cover, and is dominated by *Elymus virginicus* in semi-natural areas and by *Torilis arvensis* in the urban sites.

**FLORISTIC COMPOSITION**

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Lifeform</u>
<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>	Tree (canopy & subcanopy)	Broad-leaved deciduous tree
<i>Quercus virginiana</i>	Tree (canopy & subcanopy)	Evergreen sclerophyllous tree
<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	Tree (canopy & subcanopy)	Broad-leaved deciduous tree
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i>	Tree (canopy & subcanopy)	Thorn tree
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Herb (field)	Graminoid

**OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES**

<u>Species Name</u>	<u>GRank</u>	<u>Animal</u>	<u>Note (specify Rare (geog area), Invasive, Animal, or Other)</u>
<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>			Invasive alien
<i>Melia azedarach</i>			Invasive alien
<i>Torilis arvensis</i>			Invasive alien
<i>Morus alba</i>			Subinvasive alien

**CLASSIFICATION & OTHER COMMENTS**

**Classification Comments:**

**Other Comments:**

**ELEMENT DISTRIBUTION**

This vegetation class occurs in the San Antonio Unit in an isolated parcel where Mission Road crosses the San Antonio River. It is best developed in the Rancho Unit on upper terraces along Picoso Creek and the San Antonio River.

**ELEMENT SOURCES**

**Inventory Notes:**

**Plots:** SAAN. 2, SAAN.27, SAAN.29, SAAN.34

**Description Author(s):** R. Sanders