American Linden

Tilia americana



American Linden
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 70 feet

Spread: 45 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Other Names: Basswood

Description:

A stately native tree prized for its strongly pyramid-shaped form throughout life, clean habits and fragrant yellow flowers in early summer, will eventually grow quite large; very adaptable and low maintenance, a choice shade tree for large landscapes

Ornamental Features

American Linden is primarily valued in the landscape for its distinctively pyramidal habit of growth. It features subtle clusters of fragrant buttery yellow flowers with tan bracts hanging below the branches in early summer. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The large heart-shaped leaves turn an outstanding yellow in the fall.



American Linden in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

American Linden is a dense deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

American Linden is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade

Planting & Growing

American Linden will grow to be about 70 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 45 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 7 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.



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