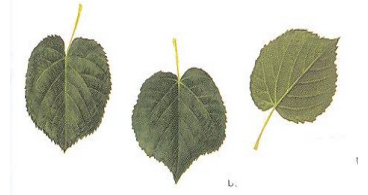


LITTLELEAF LINDEN

Tilia cordata

This species, native to Europe, is popular as a shade tree for streets, parking lots, and spacious lawns. It is often confused with its cousins, the Large-leaf Linden whose heart shaped leaves are bigger, or with the American Basswood, whose heart shaped leaves are even bigger than the Large-Leaf. It has a tolerance to heat and compacted soil. Its name is misleading with some thinking it is a small tree, but it is not. Its height is 60'-80' with widths of 35'-55'. Its crown is conical in youth, changing to ovate with dense branching with maturity. Its crown can be twiggy in winter. Its winter shoots are glossy brown with light lenticels. The buds have two visible scales. Its leaves are rounded, to 3" long and across, heart shaped at the base, taper-point, toothed, glossy green above, blue-green beneath, smooth except for hairs in the vein axils beneath, turning yellow-green or yellow in autumn. The bark is gray, smooth, becoming gray-brown and furrowed with age. The flower is 1/4" across, pale yellow, with five petals, fragrant, in clusters of up to 10, each with a pale bract to 4" long in mid summer. Its fruit is rounded, woody, gray-green, about 1/4" across.



One Littleleaf Linden, wearing a bird's nest, was planted in the corner of the triangular section of land closest to the carriage house (Section 5) at the corner of Valley Road and West Lake Drive in 2003, as part of the Arbor Day tree replacement program. A second Littleleaf Linden was planted on Arbor Day 2012, to replace the American Basswood that had toppled over because of a blocked drain. It was planted on the corner of Mt. Laurel Avenue and West Lake Drive. However, shortly thereafter, someone broke the baby tree in half. A replacement was planted on Arbor Day 2013. This one is surviving rather well. The bottom right picture shows the baby in the foreground, with the 2003 Littleleaf in the background to the left. To the right of the baby, an American Basswood bush is growing where the mature Basswood had fallen.

