

# *Tilia americana* 'Fastigiata': 'Fastigiata' American Linden<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

'Fastigiata' American linden grows 50 to 70 feet tall and 30 to 45 feet wide forming a narrow pyramidal shape with upright branches and shiny leaves and is fairly drought tolerant. The tree is pyramidal when young but develops into a striking specimen with an upright, rounded oval atop a tall, straight trunk. The lower branches remain on the tree and gently drape toward the ground before sweeping up in a gentle curve. The four to eight-inch-long, heart-shaped leaves are dark green throughout the year fading only to pale green or yellow before dropping in autumn. In June, the trees produce abundant, two to three-inch-wide clusters of very fragrant, light-yellow blooms which are extremely attractive to bees, who make a delicious honey from their harvests. The small, grey nut which is later produced will persist on the tree until midwinter. The trunk on the species can grow to six feet or more across on mature specimens.

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Tilia americana*

**Pronunciation:** TILL-ee-uh uh-mair-ih-KAY-nuh

**Common name(s):** 'Fastigiata' American linden, 'Fastigiata' basswood, 'Fastigiata' American basswood

**Family:** *Tiliaceae*



Figure 1. Mature *Tilia americana* 'Fastigiata': 'Fastigiata' American linden.

Credits: Ed Gilman, UF/IFAS

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4A through 8B (Figure 2)

**Origin:** native to North America

**Invasive potential:** native cultivar

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**Uses:** hedge; street without sidewalk; tree lawn > 6 ft wide

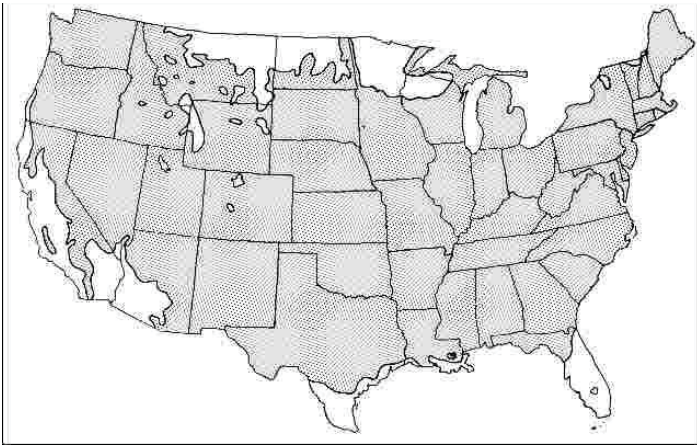


Figure 2. Range.

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## Description

**Height:** 50 to 70 feet

**Spread:** 30 to 40 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical

**Crown shape:** pyramidal, columnar

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** coarse

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Figure 3)

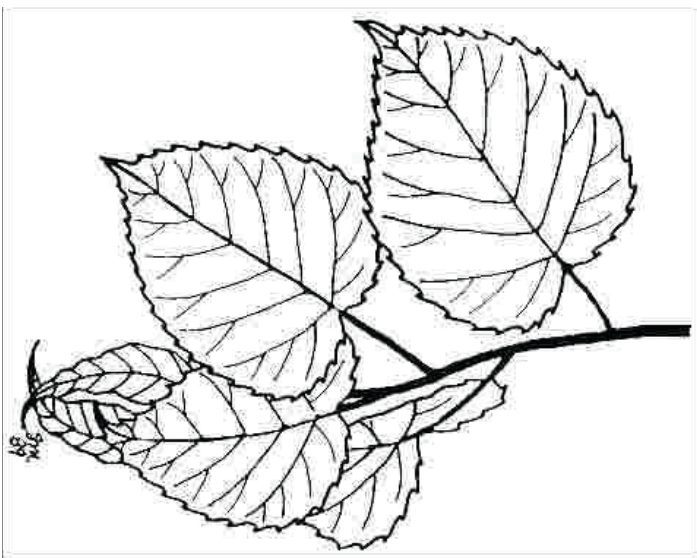


Figure 3. Foliage.

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**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate

**Leaf shape:** ovate, cordate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** yellow, green

**Flower characteristics:** showy

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round, oval

**Fruit length:** less than 0.5 inch

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** tan

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

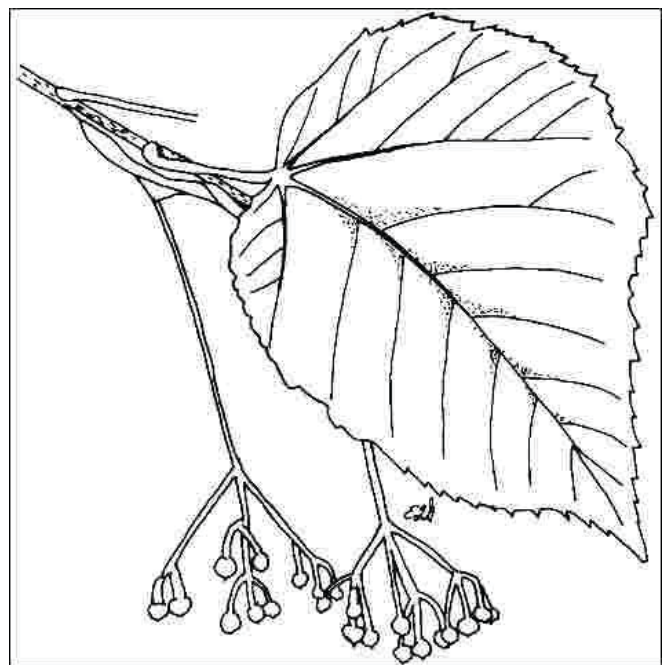


Figure 4. Fruit.

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## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** branches don't droop; not showy; typically one trunk; thorns

**Pruning requirement:** little required

**Breakage:** susceptible to breakage

**Current year twig color:** green, brown

**Current year twig thickness:** medium

**Wood specific gravity:** 0.37

## Culture

**Light requirement:** full sun, partial sun, or partial shade

**Soil tolerances:** clay; sand; loam; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** none

## Other

**Roots:** not a problem

**Winter interest:** no

**Outstanding tree:** no

**Ozone sensitivity:** unknown

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** resistant

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

## Use and Management

This tree is large and needs plenty of room to develop. Branches should be well-spaced along a central trunk to allow for development of a durable structure. Left unpruned, crotches with embedded bark can develop but the wood is flexible, so branches usually do not break from the tree. The tree is considered to have a strong branch structure. Plant it as a specimen or shade tree on a commercial property where there is plenty of soil space available for root expansion. It can be used as a street tree in large tree lawns or along a street without a sidewalk but is sensitive to road salt. Be prepared to remove sprouts periodically from the base of the trunk.

A North American native tree, American linden prefers moist, fertile soils, acid or slightly alkaline, in full sun or partial shade. More shade tolerant than many other large trees. The leaves will show appreciable browning after a particularly dry season, but the tree appears fine the following year. It is often found (and prefers) growing along moist stream banks but tolerates some drought.

The cultivar 'Legend' is pyramidal, grows with a single, straight trunk, and upright, well-spaced branches; 'Redmond' has a broad pyramidal canopy. These can all be used in large tree lawns along streets.

Propagation is by seed, cuttings, or grafting.

## Pests

Mainly aphids, although Japanese beetle, European linden bark borer, linden borer, walnut lace bug, caterpillars, basswood leaf miner, elm sawfly, scales, and linden mite can all be troublesome problems. The aphids will secrete a honeydew which will result in a dark soot over objects below the tree, such as parked cars or lawn furniture.

## Diseases

Anthracnose, leaf blight, canker, leaf spots, powdery mildew, and verticillium wilt are some diseases that can infect American linden. Leaf rust can cause some defoliation.