

Littleleaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*)

The Littleleaf Linden is a medium to a large-size broadleaf deciduous tree. It is a member of the Malvaceae family. Many consider it to be the best of all the Lindens. It has been widely planted in the United States as an ornamental shade tree. It has a formal appearance, pyramidal to an oval shape, and offers dense shade. The tree has often been planted inappropriately as a street tree. The result is stunted growth, leaf scorch, and windthrow.

The Littleleaf Linden is a native of Europe and stretches to Western Siberia and Iran. The tree dates to 760 AD. It can grow up to 70' tall with a 30' spread. The tree prefers full sun to partial shade, loamy, moist, and well-drained soils. The tree has a medium growth rate. If the tree is stressed, the growth rate is much slower. It does not tolerate wet conditions, severe drought, pollution, or salt spray. It can tolerate heavy pruning.

The leaves are light to dark green with paler undersides. They have an ovate shape with a cordate base. The fall color is chartreuse. If the tree is under stress, the leaves are sometimes golden yellow. The flowers are fragrant and creamy yellow clusters that blossom in the summer. The fruit is a small hairy nutlet. The flowers are rich in nectar and attract hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. The tree's softwood creates nesting sites for cavity-dwelling birds.