

# **Tilia,** Lime, Linden (*Tiliaceae*)



#### cordata (T. parvifolia), Small-leaved lime

Origin: Europe. Large deciduous tree with crown which is initially conical-broad, later round. The bark of the young branches is bright red on the upper side, olive green where it is not exposed to the sun. Leaves: 3-9cm in length and width, from cordate to round, finely toothed margins, bright green on upper side, pale green or glaucous underneath. Autumn colours: yellow, often very deep. Flowers: yellowish-white, very fragrant, in June- July. Fruit: from oval to spherical, slightly ribbed, greyish-green when ripe, about 6 mm long. Best results in moderately cool, rich soil, slightly acid to alkaline, but out of all Lime trees this is the one that adapts best to poor soil provided

that it is not too dry. Very hardy, withstands low temperature, tolerates heat, temporary periods of drought, pollution. Use: free standing specimen, in groups in parks, as a street plant.

#### x euchlora, Crimean linden

Origin: hybrid of Tilia cordata and T. dasystila. Medium sized deciduous tree with conical- round crown formed from fairly strong branches, upright and horizontal in the upper part, and the lower part is weeping (reaching the ground if they have space to develop). Leaves: orbiculate-ovate, 5-10cm long, slightly toothed, finely pointed, bright green on the upper side, pale green underneath. Flowers: in June-July, bright yellow, grouped in clusters of 3-7. Fruit: from ovoidal to elliptic, slightly ribbed. Growing requirements and use: the same as T. cordata. Resistant to aphidis.







## x europaea "Pallida" (T. x intermedia "Pallida") (T. x vulgaris "Pallida")

Majestic deciduous tree with upright trunk and evenly spaced slanting branches which form a pyramidal crown. Cordate leaves with toothed margins, from 6 to 10cm long, deep green, yellow in autumn. Flowers: in June, precocious, yellow, grouped in 3-7 in pendulous heads. Fruit: round, ribbed. Requires fertile, deep, cool, slightly acid and alkaline soil. Tolerates periods of drought provided they are not too long, and city pollution.

# "Greenspire" (T. cordata "Greenspire")

Origin: USA. Medium sized deciduous tree with dense, regular, oval crown. Heart-shaped leaves, 6cm to 10cm in length and width, glossy dark green throughout the summer, yellow in autumn. Flowers, fruit, growing requirements and use: the same as T. cordata.







#### hybrida "Argentea", American lime

Majestic deciduous tree with upper branches that turn upwards and the lower ones downwards. The crown which the branches form looks like a tower, very attractive even in winter when the tree is bare. Leaves: from oval to heart-shaped with saw-toothed margins, large (16cm long, 12cm wide), glossy, bright green on the upper side, pale green tinged with silver underneath; in autumn they turn yellow, some deeper yellow than others. Flowers: in June-July, cream, very fragrant and attract bees. Spherical fruit, 5-7 mm in diameter, dark grey when ripe. Adapts well to all types of soil but gives best results in deep, cool and clay soil. Use: as a free standing specimen in medium-large gardens, in groups in parks, as

a background plant, along streets. This is certainly the most common Lime Tree used as a street plant in the flat and hilly areas of Italy, no higher than 600-700 m above sea level as the active growth begins early and it could be easily damaged by late frost.

### platyphyllos (T. grandifolia)

Origin: Europe. Large tree with a broadly conical crown, later becoming roundish with young reddish branches and pale green leaves which, turn yellow in autumn. Flowers, appear a week earlier than other lime trees, are yellowish-white, used to make infusions. Spherical fruit, dark grey when ripe. Grows well in siliceous and deep soil, preferably calcareous and permeable. Suitable for parks, ancient village squares, avenues leading to country houses.







#### platyphyllos "Pannonia"

Variety with drooping branches that form a notably soft and elegant crown. Surely one of the best trees with weeping habit, ideal on its own on lawns or to form picturesque groups in parks. Growing requirements: like Tilia platyphyllos.

#### tomentosa

Origin: Europe, the Middle East. Large deciduous tree with rounded crown. Heart- shaped leaves, rounder than T. platyphyllos, up to 16cm long, 12cm wide, dark green on upper side, silvery-white underneath. the slightest breeze the leaves flutter showing the two colours; beautiful yellow in autumn. Very fragrant flowers, numerous, in June-July. Hardy and resistant to drought and pollution. Grows well in dry soil but looses the leaves early. Use: parks and streets.







#### tomentosa "Brabant"

Large deciduous tree known for its very dense, regular, broadly conical crown. Dark green cordiform leaves with silver, almost white underside. Growing requirements and use: like Tilia tomentosa.