

Tiliaceae

linden family

Mostly of tropical regions this family of 450 species, is represented in Nova Scotia only by two species of *Tilia* ornamental shade trees.

***Tilia* L.**

basswood, linden, lime

With widely cordate, serrated leaves, these trees bear sweetly fragrant white flowers. Stamens are numerous, often bundled in fives. Peduncle is basally joined to a persistent papery bract. Fruit is a dehiscent tomentose nutlet containing one or two seeds. The closest native *Tilia* species, *T. americana* occurs in floodplain forest of the Saint John River, New Brunswick.

Flowering cymes pendant; pubescence on undersurface of leaves whitish.

Tilia x vulgaris

Flowering cymes ascending; pubescence on undersurface of leaves reddish brown.

T. cordata

***Tilia cordata* Mill.**

Small-leaved Lime; tilleul à petites feuilles

The small heart-shaped leaves, have their lower surfaces pubescent, the downy hairs are reddish brown.

Less commonly seen but may be expected as a persistent shade tree after cultivation.

It is one of the parent species of our commonly planted ornamental *T. cordata* x *T. platyphyllos*.

***Tilia x vulgaris* Hayne**

(*T. x europaea* L.)

Basswood, Linden, Lime-tree; tilleul d'Europe



Photo by Marian Munro

Cordate leaves are serrate and acute. Usually 5–10cm in length, smaller than those of the native linden, *T. americana*. Bright green beneath, the veins are pubescent in the axils.

Commonly planted and sometimes escaping about settlements. Persisting, as at Halifax.

Collected from most towns and near derelict houses.

NS to ON; OH; MA: CT and OR. introduced from Europe.