

American Basswood

Tilia americana

American basswood or American linden, locally known just as basswood, is native to Aitkin County. Basswoods are identifiable because they tend to grow in clumps and by their large, heart-shaped, and serrated leaves (up to 6" long). Their blossoms are excellent for attracting pollinators (and make unique honey), while small, nut-like fruits attract songbirds and squirrels. Wood from a basswood tree is soft and easy to carve and used for furniture, kegs, lumber, and paper pulp.

Height: 60' to 80'

Basswood can grow quickly, about 1 ft per year. Growth slows down as the tree matures.

Planting environment:

Soil composition: Sandy to silty loams, finer textured soils *Soil*

moisture: Moist soils

Sunlight: Shade tolerant (can live with <6 hours of sun/day)

Basswoods will grow tall if planted close together or will grow wider with larger branches if planted farther apart.

Maintenance:

Remove vegetation that might outcompete saplings. Consider opening up the overhead canopy and continuing to clear brush if you want to ensure the trees are established.

Top diseases/pests:

1. Defoliating pests
2. Sensitive to road salt

