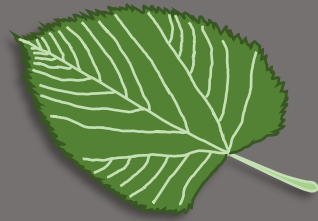


# American Basswood

*Tilia americana*



American basswood or American linden, locally known just as basswood, is native to Aitkin County. Basswood are distinguished both by their tendency to grow in clumps and large, heart-shaped leaves. Leaves are 3"-6" in length with serrated edges, while seeds grow in small, nut-like fruits favored by songbirds and squirrels. Fragrant flowers draw bees and butterflies, and honey derived from basswood flowers is noted for a light, unique flavor. Wood from a basswood tree is soft and easy to carve. Commercial uses for the wood include wooden ware, furniture, kegs, lumber, and paper pulp.

**Height:** 60' to 80'

Basswood grows more quickly than other species suited to similar environments, with a growth rate of approximately 1 foot per year that tapers off as the tree ages.

## **Planting environment:**

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

*Soil moisture:* Moist

*Sunlight:* Shade tolerant (<6 hours of sun/day)

Spacing of basswood is somewhat dependent on the form desired; if trees are planted closely, such as in a typical forest setting, trees will tend to grow upright and form narrow crowns, whereas a yard tree will tend to be broader with large branches.

## **Maintenance:**

Basswood is only occasionally found in pure stands due to its shade tolerance. Remove encroaching vegetation that may outcompete saplings. Once seedlings are established, consider removing overhead canopies and clearing any surrounding brush to ensure establishment.

## **Top diseases/pests:**

1. Defoliating pests
2. Salt sensitivity

