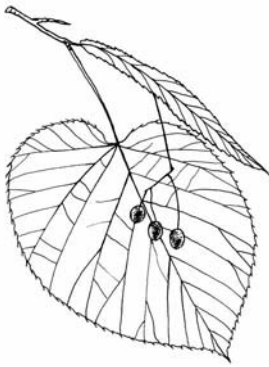


AMERICAN BASSWOOD

Tilia americana L.

American basswood or linden occurs as scattered specimens throughout the state. It grows to a height of 50-70 feet and a diameter of 2-3 feet. The branches are slender, somewhat pendulous, comparatively small and numerous, forming a broad and rounded head. The **bark** on the trunk of old trees is deeply and irregularly furrowed. On young trees, it is smooth or slightly fissured and has a grayish appearance. The **leaves** are alternate, broadly egg-shaped to heart-shaped in outline, toothed,



upper surface dark green; lower, yellow-green and shiny, 5-6 inches long. The leaf base is uneven.

The **flowers** are greenish yellow, borne on a slender stalk which is attached to a rather long, yellowish, leaf-like bract. They are fragrant, contain an abundance of nectar and open in July.

The **fruit** is clustered, spherical, covered with short buff-colored hairs, woody, and is about as large as a pea. It remains attached to the leaf-like bract when it falls.

The **wood** is light, soft, and easily worked. It is used for moldings, yardsticks, veneer, dowels, oars, furniture, pattern stock, carvings, and pulp.

Bees make an excellent grade of honey from the flowers. The young fruit and flowers ground into a paste make an excellent substitute for chocolate.

The **European Linden** (*Tilia europaea* L.) and **Little-leaf Linden** (*Tilia cordata* Mill.) are commonly planted as shade trees. They are smaller in height than our native species and with smaller leaves. Baxter Boulevard in Portland is lined with both of these species.

