



Tilia x europaea European Linden, Common Lime, Common linden

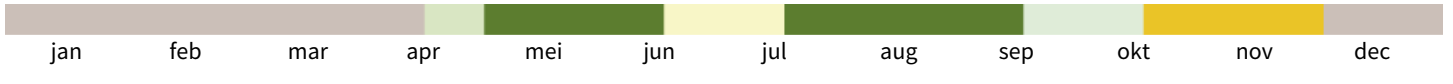


Tilia x europaea (Dutch lime) is a natural hybrid of *Tilia cordata* and *Tilia platyphyllos*. This cross occurs spontaneously in regions where both parent species grow together, but it has also been cultivated in Europe for centuries as an avenue tree. Along with elms, this species has been an important export product of Dutch tree nurseries for many generations. The Dutch lime reaches a height of thirty to forty meters and a width of fifteen to twenty meters, forming a broad, conical to ovate crown. The branches are generally heavy and spreading with a strong, upright central leader.

The foliage of the Dutch lime is heart shaped with a serrated margin and shows traits of both parents. The leaves are larger than those of *Tilia cordata* but less rough than those of *Tilia platyphyllos*. The underside is light green to blue green and lightly hairy, with rust colored tufts of hair in the vein axils. *Tilia x europaea* flowers in June with fragrant yellowish blossoms in pendulous clusters, rich in pollen and nectar and therefore highly attractive to bees and other insects. After flowering, nut like fruits develop with ribs and a woody shell. The trunk is gray brown and furrowed in older trees, and the species frequently produces root suckers. The twigs are thin and smooth.

The Dutch lime is a classic tree for avenues, squares and parks, widely planted since the Middle Ages. It grows best in fertile and moist soils, but it also tolerates temporarily dry or compacted conditions. The tree is shade tolerant but performs best in full sun to partial shade. A notable drawback is its high susceptibility to aphids, which can cause nuisance due to honeydew. For this reason, it is less suitable for use near parking areas or in heavily used squares. Nevertheless, *Tilia x europaea* remains a long lived and culturally significant tree, highly valued in monumental plantings.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees, characteristic trees | **Topiary on stem:** pollard

USE

Location: avenue, park, central reservation, cemetery, countryside, ecological zone | **Pavement:** none, open | **Planting concepts:** food forest, Eco planting, Landscape planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide pyramidal | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 30 - 40 m | **Width:** 15 - 20 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 4A - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, nectar value 5, pollen value 5

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: corymbose, striking, flower-scented | **Flower colour:** cream-yellow | **Flowering period:** June - July | **Leaf colour:** dark green, underside blue-green | **Leaves:** deciduous, cordate, matt polished, underside hairy | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** discrete, small, nut | **Fruit colour:** grey | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** furrowed, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** brown, green | **Twigs:** bare, vertical branches, finely branched, long shoots | **Root system:** shallow, extensive, root suckers

