

Tilia mongolica
Mongolian Lime



Tilia mongolica (Mongolian lime) comes from Mongolia and China where it grows on wooded mountainsides in a continental climate together with, amongst others, *Phellodendron amurense, Carpinus cordata* and *Maackia amurensis*. The tree was discovered by Polish-Russian biologist and explorer Nikolaj Przewalski and described in 1880 by Russian botanist Carl Maximowicz. In its native habitat this slow-growing lime can attain a height of 25 metres; in cultivation the height is restricted to ten metres although older and taller trees are known to exist. *Tilia mongolica* forms a semi-open, broadly egg-shaped to round crown approximately eight metres wide.

The Mongolian lime is easily discernible by its decoratively deeply cut leaf which in terms of form is similar to a grape leaf, albeit a lot smaller. The glossy, leathery foliage emerges red, changes to green with a blue-green underside and in the autumn the tree has deep yellow autumn foliage. The warmer the summer has been, the more intense the autumn colours. In July, *Tilia mongolica* bears conspicuous, cream-white inflorescences held erect above the leaves. Bees and other insects love it! After flowering small, oval nuts appear which stay on the tree until late in the autumn. Young Mongolian limes have a grey, smooth bark which peels in oblong strips as the tree matures.

Tilia mongolica can withstand drought and shade, is very hardy and also not affected by infestations of lice. This lime has brittle branches which can break in high winds and so a sheltered site is important. The Mongolian lime is found on more acid brown forest soils but adapts reasonably well to most kinds of soil and even grows on scree in its native habitat. *Tilia mongolica* is ideal for use in parks and gardens, cultivar ‘Buda’ is also good for urban planting in paved areas.

SEASONAL COLOURS



jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement**: none

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded, wide egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 8 - 10 m | **Width**: 6 - 8 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 8A

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: moist | **Light requirements**: sun | **pH range**: acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: corymbose, striking, pendulous, strongly scented | **Flower colour**: cream-white | **Flowering period**: July - July | **Leaf colour**: buds red, green, underside blue-green | **Leaves**: deciduous, cordate, small, dissected, dentate, lobate | **Autumn colour**: golden yellow | **Fruits**: discrete, nut | **Fruit colour**: grey-green | **Bark colour**: grey-brown | **Bark**: slightly furrowed | **Twig colour**: red-brown | **Twigs**: bare, pendulous | **Root system**: deep, extensive, fine roots, central root

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