

## *Tilia americana* 'Redmond' 'Redmond' American Linden<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

'Redmond' American Linden grows 65 to 75 feet tall and 30 to 45 feet wide forming a pyramidal shape with upright branches and shiny leaves and is quite drought-tolerant (Fig. 1). It may also be known as *Tilia x euchlora* 'Redmond'. The tree is pyramidal when young but develops into a striking specimen with an upright, oval canopy atop a tall, straight trunk. The lower branches on the species remain on the tree and gently drape toward the ground before sweeping up in a gentle curve. This cultivar has a more upright habit so branches will not droop as much as the species. The four to eight-inch-long, heart-shaped leaves are dark green throughout the year fading only to pale green or yellow before dropping in autumn. In June, the trees produce abundant, two to three-inch-wide clusters of very fragrant, light yellow blooms which are extremely attractive to bees, who make a delicious honey from their harvests. The small, grey nut which is later produced will persist on the tree until midwinter. The trunk on the species can grow to six feet or more across on mature specimens.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Tilia americana* 'Redmond'

**Pronunciation:** TILL-ee-uh uh-mair-ih-KAY-nuh

**Common name(s):** 'Redmond' American Linden, 'Redmond' Basswood, 'Redmond' American Basswood

**Family:** *Tiliaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 8 (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** native to North America

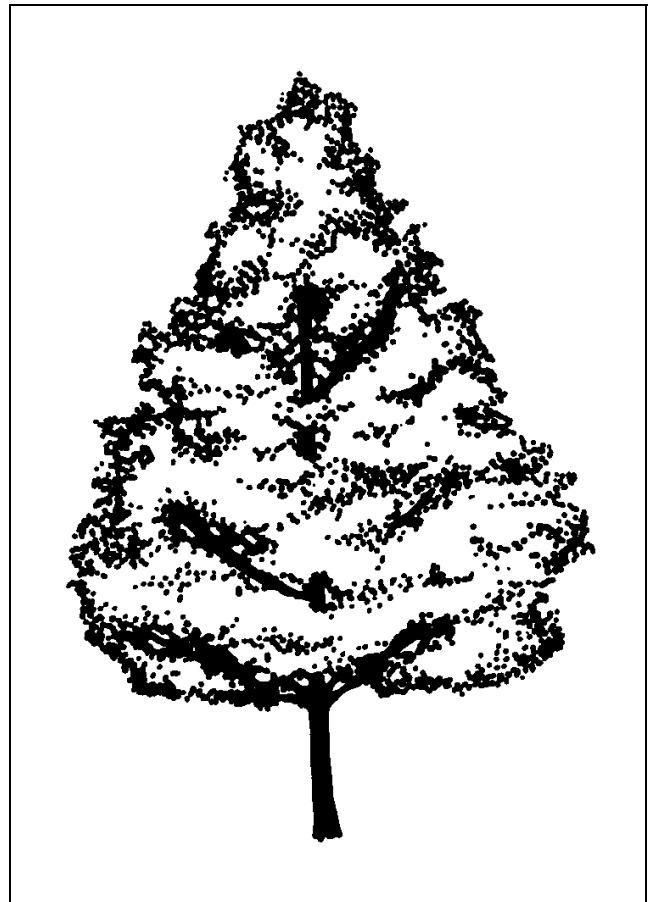


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Redmond' American Linden.

**Uses:** hedge; large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size); wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; shade tree;

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**Figure 2.** Shaded area represents potential planting range.

specimen; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance

**Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the tree

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 60 to 70 feet

**Spread:** 30 to 45 feet

**Crown uniformity:** symmetrical canopy with a regular (or smooth) outline, and individuals have more or less identical crown forms

**Crown shape:** oval; pyramidal

**Crown density:** dense

**Growth rate:** medium

**Texture:** coarse

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate

**Leaf shape:** cordate; ovate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** green; yellow

**Flower characteristics:** pleasant fragrance; showy; summer flowering

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval; round

**Fruit length:** < .5 inch

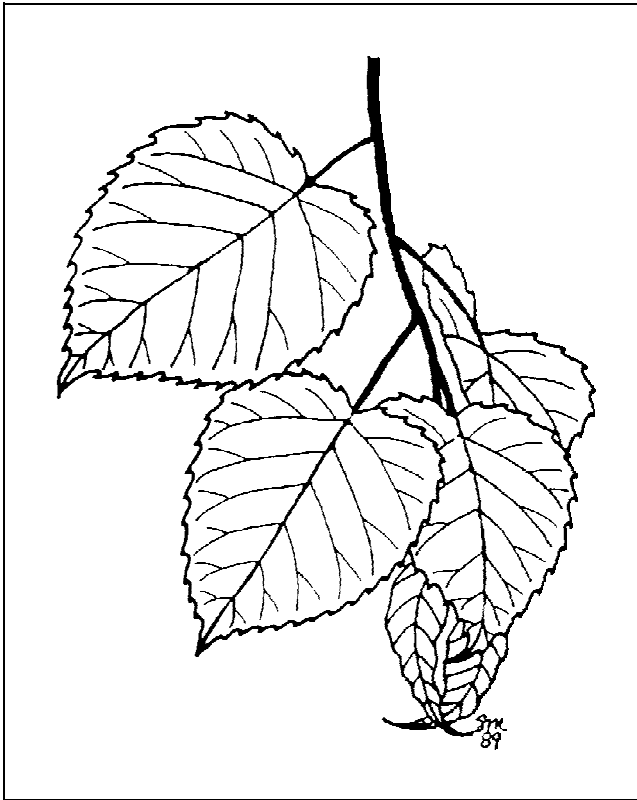
**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** tan

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; inconspicuous and not showy; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns



**Figure 3.** Foliage of 'Redmond' American Linden.

**Pruning requirement:** requires pruning to develop strong structure

**Breakage:** susceptible to breakage either at the crotch due to poor collar formation, or the wood itself is weak and tends to break

**Current year twig color:** brown; green

**Current year twig thickness:** medium

**Wood specific gravity:** 0.37

## Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** none

## Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Verticillium wilt susceptibility:** not known to be susceptible

**Pest resistance:** long-term health usually not affected by pests

## USE AND MANAGEMENT

This tree is large and needs plenty of room to develop. Branches should be well-spaced along a central trunk to allow for development of a durable structure. Left unpruned, crotches with embedded bark can develop but the wood is flexible so branches usually do not break from the tree. The tree is considered to have a strong branch structure. Plant it as a specimen or shade tree on a commercial property where there is plenty of soil space available for root expansion. It can be used as a street tree in large tree lawns or along a street without a sidewalk, but is sensitive to road salt. Be prepared to remove sprouts periodically from the base of the trunk.

A North American native tree, American Linden prefers moist, fertile soils, acid or slightly alkaline, in full sun or partial shade. More shade tolerant than many other large trees. The leaves will show some browning after a particularly dry season, but the tree appears fine the following year. It is often found (and prefers) growing along moist stream banks but tolerates moderate drought.

The cultivar 'Fastigiata' is narrowly pyramidal with fragrant yellow flowers; 'Legend' is resistant to leaf rust, pyramidal, grows with a single, straight trunk, and upright, well-spaced branches. These can all be used in large tree lawns along streets.

Propagation is by seed, cuttings, or grafting.

## Pests

Mainly aphids, although Japanese beetle, European Linden bark borer, Linden borer, walnut lace bug, caterpillars, Basswood leaf miner, elm sawfly, scales and Linden mite can all be troublesome problems. The aphids will secrete a honeydew which will result in a dark soot over objects below the tree, such as parked cars or lawn furniture.

## Diseases

Anthracnose, leaf blight, canker, leaf spots, powdery mildew, and verticillium wilt are some diseases that can infect American Linden. Leaf rust can cause some defoliation.