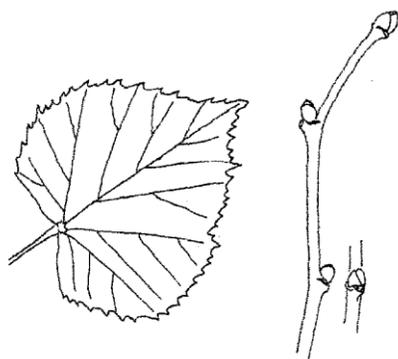


Silver linden

Tilia tomentosa



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The queen of the lindens this stately tree is broadly pyramidal in outline with arching branches that make a significant winter statement. The large shiny dark green leaves have a silvery underside that provide a sparkle in a breeze. The bark is light to silver gray and on older trunks becomes gray brown and furrowed. This tree needs a large space to develop properly and is planted on an elevated site so that the undersides of the leaves are readily visible. The fall foliage is an attractive golden yellow.

HABIT AND SIZE: 50-70' high and 25-50' wide. The young trees shape is pyramidal but as it matures it changes to upright-oval to pyramidal oval. There is a very similar species if not a cultivar *T. petiolaris* that has more pendulous branching.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: A wonderful shade tree for larger areas and quite heat and drought tolerant. It lends itself to pruning.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged, simple, suborbicular abruptly acuminate and slightly heart shaped to flat along the base. Sharply serrate sometimes double and even with slight sharp lobes. Upperside slightly hairy when young and underside and petiole with a white wooly texture. Leaf color a lustrous dark green above, silvery below turning to yellow in the fall.

FLOWERS: The flowers are fragrant and said to be narcotic to bees. The inflorescence is a pendulous 2-3" wide cyme with 7-10 flowers and subtended by a 1.5-2.5" ligulate (strap shaped) bract fused to the peduncle. Each flower is yellowish white with 5 sepals and petals and many stamens often in fascicles (close clusters) opposite the petals. Flowering is in late June or early July.

FRUIT: An ovate nutlet that is sharply pointed, slightly 5 sided, 0.33-0.375" long with a white pubescence and tiny wart-like protrusions.

BUD: 0.25" long, green-red-brown in color and with a soft short pubescence.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: See *T. cordata*

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 4-7. Southeast Europe and Asia.

CULTIVARS: 'Sterling Silver'- a rapid grower with an impressive broad pyramidal crown.