

American basswood *Tiliaceae Tilia americana* L. symbol: **vTree** TIAM

Leaf: Alternate, simple, ovate to cordate, 5 to 6 inches long, with serrate margins, pinnately veined, base is unequally cordate, green above and paler below.

Flower: Species is monoecious; pale yellow, borne below a long, gracefully curving leafy wing in a many branched cluster, several inches long, appearing in early to mid-summer.

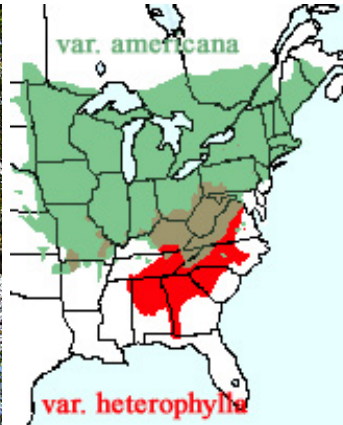
Fruit: A round, unribbed nutlet (1/4 inch) that is covered with gray-brown hair; occur in a hanging cluster with a curving, leafy bract acting as wing on top of the cluster, ripening in the fall.

Twig: Moderately stout, zigzag, green (summer) or red (winter); terminal bud is false, each very plump with one side bulging out disproportionately. Buds are edible but very mucilaginous.

Bark: At first smooth and gray-green, later turning gray-brown and becoming ridged with long, shallow furrows and flat topped ridges. The bark is very fibrous.

Form: A medium sized tree to 80 feet. Older trees very often sprout from the base when cut. Stumps sprout prolifically, often resulting in clumps of several trees.

Looks like: [littleleaf linden](#) - [silver linden](#)



Additional Range Information:
Tilia americana is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting American basswood.](#)

External Links:
[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)
[USDAFS Additional Silvics Landowner Factsheet](#)
[USDA Plants Database Horticulture](#)

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