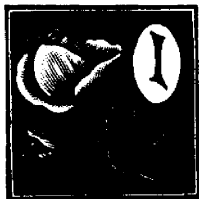


THE AMERICAN LINDEN, OR, LIME TREE—(Basswood).

(*Tilia Americana*.)



If a person were to order lime trees from some nurseryman he would certainly receive trees of the sour lemon (*Citrus medica*), generally known as limes. Other nurserymen would send lindens (*Tilia Americana*), or, perhaps some of the European varieties of lime, while others would return the query: "What kind of lime trees are wanted?"

This confusion of names is unfortunate, and should be rectified. However, the tree I wish to mention particularly just now, is that commonly known in Canada as the Basswood. There is no doubt the tree was given this name in Russia, where bast-mats are extensively made from the inner bark or fiber.

In England, and some other countries, the basswood bark has long been used for making ropes, not of the strongest quality, but which serves many useful purposes.

Basswood strings are peculiarly suited for tying up plants which need stakes, or trellises, and for tying buds; and I have handled tons of it for those purposes.

This bark is easily separated by a process of maceration, when it comes apart in thin layers, which, when properly dried and cared for, can be kept in good order for a long time.

In Europe there are several varieties of the lime or linden, the chief difference, however, being in the size and smoothness of the leaves. I have seen many trees of the European varieties growing in America, but for symmetrical form and beauty of foliage, they do not compare favorably with our own native linden. Its large, green, glossy leaves, and the fragrant of its flowers, which furnish nectar for the honey-bee, make it an elegant detached object, when planted singly in open lawns or pleasure-grounds. It has also this advantage, that it is hardier than any of the European varieties; therefore I decry the assumed wisdom of some importers who continue to recommend foreign trees, which are in many respects inferior to those which we can easily have in abundance.

This valuable tree will grow and thrive in almost any soil or situation, but in thin soils in dry seasons, the leaves drop early in autumn.

Propagation.—In Germany the linden is propagated largely from layers and cuttings, as well as from seed. Of the different methods in Canada I have found that of raising from seed to be the more economical and satisfactory.

The seeds should be sown soon after it ripens, or early in autumn, because if allowed to dry for the winter and sown in spring they will not germinate until