



# American Basswood

## *Tilia americana*

### The Linden Family (Tiliaceae)

**Basic Description:** A fast growing tree with large, deciduous, heart-shaped leaves arranged alternately on long leaf stalks (petioles).

**Interesting Facts:** Native peoples and settlers soaked the inner bark in water to separate its tough fibers that were then used to make ropes, nets, mats, shoes, clothing and thread.

**Flower:** Clusters of 5-15 small, yellowish-white flowers are attached by a stalk to a 4-5" long leaf-like bract.

**Fruit:** Fruits are round nutlets in a cluster on a wiry stalk attached to a leaf-like bract.

**Wildlife Value:** Basswood nectar is favored by bees and makes a strong honey; it is a larval plant for Red-spotted Purple and Mourning Cloak butterflies as well as 150 species of caterpillars in North America. The seeds are eaten by squirrels and chipmunks and other small mammals.

**Habitat:** Moist forests and lowlands

LEAF TYPE

SIMPLE



POLLINATOR

INSECT



WILDLIFE VALUE

HIGH

