

# Smart tree selections

for communities and landowners



## Silver Linden

### *Tilia tomentosa*

**Height:** 50' - 70'

**Spread:** 30' - 50'

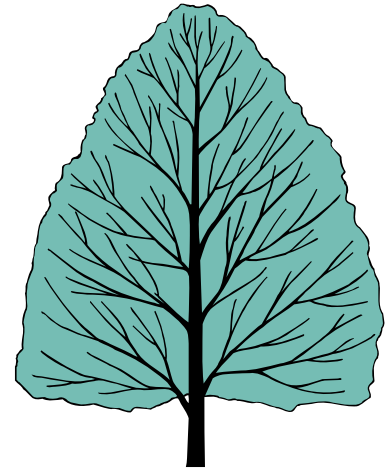
**Site characteristics:** Moist, deep, fertile, well-drained soils; full sun to partial shade; very site adaptable

**Zone:** 4 - 7

**Wet/dry:** Tolerates drought

**Native range:** Southeastern Europe and Southwestern Asia

**pH:** 5.0 - 8.5



**Shape:** Pyramidal with dense, coarse foliage

**Foliage:** Glossy green with silvery-white color on the underside of the leaf

**Other:** Tolerates heat and drought better than *T. cordata*; tolerates urban sites, heat, drought and pollution; able to prune into a hedge

**Cultivars:** Green Mountain ('PNI 6051') – fast growing, symmetrical, dense canopy. Satin Shadow ('Sashazam') – possibly more cold hardy, symmetrical, reportedly resistant to Japanese beetles. Sterling Silver (also listed as 'Sterling') – dense canopy, resistant to Japanese beetles and gypsy moths.

**Pests:** Reportedly less susceptible to Japanese beetles than other lindens due to the soft, downy hairs on the underside of the leaves. No serious pests or disease problems.



Jesse Saylor, MSU



Jesse Saylor, MSU



Jesse Saylor, MSU



## Smart tree selections for communities and landowners

Bert Cregg and Robert Schutzki, Michigan State University, Departments of Horticulture and Forestry

A smart urban or community landscape has a diverse combination of trees. The devastation caused by exotic pests such as Dutch elm disease, chestnut blight and emerald ash borer has taught us the importance of species diversity in our landscapes. Exotic invasive pests can devastate existing trees because many of these species may not have evolved resistance mechanisms in their native environments. In the recent case of emerald ash borer, white ash and green ash were not resistant to the pest and some communities in Michigan lost up to 20 percent of their tree cover. To promote diverse use of trees by homeowners, landscapers and urban foresters, Michigan State University Extension offers a series of tip sheets for smart urban and community tree selection.

In these tip sheets, we suggest trees that should be considered in situations where an ash tree may have been planted in the past. We have limited the tip sheets to medium to large trees that fulfill similar design intent as ashes. We include information on general characteristics, hardiness, mature form, size and other noteworthy qualities. For species native to eastern North America, we provide a map of the species' native range. We tried to present a representative number of "tried and true" trees and some lesser-known or underused selections suitable for Michigan. Smart tree selection is guided by Right Plant/Right Place and Responsible Use: selecting trees based on a tree's functional use, aesthetics, adaptability and environmental contributions to the immediate site and surrounding areas. Our tip sheets focus on the species level, although we do mention cultivars of several species. The following trees are recommended and featured in a tip sheet:

- American hornbeam, *Carpinus caroliniana*
- American hophornbeam, *Ostrya virginiana*
- Amur corktree, *Phellodendron amurense*
- Amur maackia, *Maackia amurensis*
- Baldcypress, *Taxodium distichum*
- Basswood, *Tilia americana*
- Bur oak, *Quercus macrocarpa*
- Callery pear\*, *Pyrus calleryana*
- Chinkapin oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii*
- Dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
- Elm hybrids, *Ulmus spp.*
- European hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus*
- Freeman maple, *Acer ×freemanii*
- Ginkgo, *Ginkgo biloba*
- Hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis*
- Hardy rubber tree, *Eucommia ulmoides*
- Hedge maple, *Acer campestre*
- Honeylocust, *Gleditsia triacanthos*
- Japanese pagodatree, *Sophora japonica*
- Katsura tree, *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*
- Kentucky coffeetree, *Gymnocladus dioicus*
- Little-leaf linden, *Tilia cordata*
- London planetree, *Platanus ×acerifolia*
- Miyabe maple, *Acer miyabei*
- Northern pin oak, *Quercus ellipsoidalis*
- Norway maple\*, *Acer platanoides*
- Red maple, *Acer rubrum*
- Sawtooth oak\*, *Quercus acutissima*
- Scarlet oak, *Quercus coccinea*
- Shantung maple, *Acer truncatum*
- Shingle oak, *Quercus imbricaria*
- Shumard oak, *Quercus shumardii*
- Silver linden, *Tilia tomentosa*
- Swamp white oak, *Quercus bicolor*
- Sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*
- Sycamore maple, *Acer pseudoplatanus*
- Trident maple, *Acer buergerianum*
- Tulip tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- Tupelo, *Nyssa sylvatica*
- Turkish hazel, *Corylus colurna*
- Yellowwood, *Cladrastis kentukea*

\*See on tip sheet regarding responsible use of this species.

Visit [www.migarden.msu.edu](http://www.migarden.msu.edu) for smart gardening advice for your lawn, plants and soil.

Or call the **MSU Extension toll-free hotline** number: 888-678-3464.