

# Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs

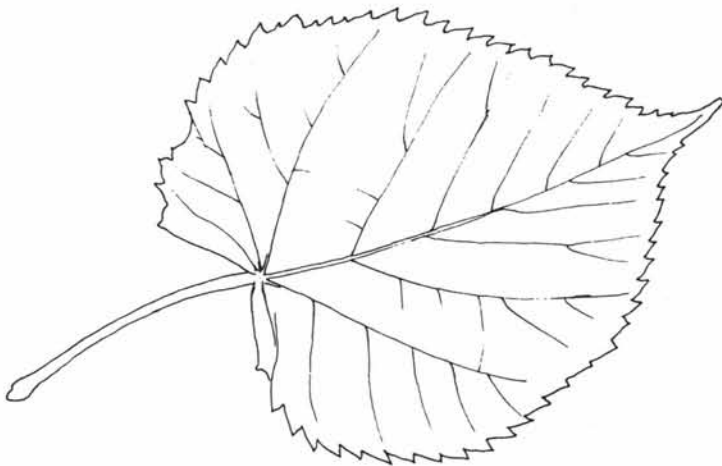
by Fred D. Opperman



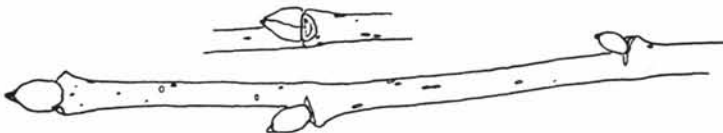
**Tree Trivia Question:** What is the most common wood used for the manufacture of quality heads for your golf clubs?

This month's selection is found on most golf courses and is quite common. Decoy carvers love the wood for it is straight grained and carves very easily. *Tilia americana* or American Linden, sometimes called Basswood, is a tree that should be in your tree inventory on the golf course.

**Leaves:** Alternate, simple, broad-ovate, 4 to 8" long, and almost as wide, abruptly acuminate. Coarsely serrate with long-pointed teeth, dark green and glabrous above with light green underneath. There are tufts of hair in the axils of the lateral veins.



**Buds:** Terminal-absent, laterals - 1/8-2/5" long, somewhat flattened, often lopsided, brown, reddish brown or greenish. They are smooth or slightly downy at apex, bud shaped like a teardrop.



**Bark:** Gray to brown, broken into many long narrow, flat-topped, scaly ridges, very tough and fibrous. The Indians used the inner bark for making string or ropes and used it for making cloth.

**Stem:** Smooth gray-brown, shining brown or greenish red, generally zigzag in shape.

**Size:** In our area will grow to about 60 to 80 feet in height, with a spread of 40 to 60 feet.

**Flowers:** Perfect, pale yellow 3/5" wide, very fragrant in mid to late June. The honey from Lindens is delicious.

**Culture:** This tree transplants very easily and is found in all nurseries. It prefers deep moist fertile soils and is pH adaptable. Likes full sun, but partial shade is okay. The most common cultivar is the Redmond Linden.

Answer to tree trivia question:?

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants"  
by Dirr & Stipes

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