Chinese Lime

Tilia oliveri



Chinese Lime
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 50 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Chinese Linden, White Lime

Description:

An ornamental shade tree featuring a rounded, pyramidal habit of growth and fragrant flowers in early summer; leaves have silvery-white undersides which shimmer in the wind, very attractive; a neat and tidy tree, very adaptable, best for larger landscapes

Ornamental Features

Chinese Lime features showy clusters of fragrant creamy white flowers with tan bracts hanging below the branches in early summer. It has attractive forest green foliage with silver undersides. The serrated heart-shaped leaves are highly ornamental and turn an outstanding gold in the fall.



Chinese Lime foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Chinese Lime is a dense deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting bees to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Chinese Lime is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Chinese Lime will grow to be about 50 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 5 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 70 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.