

# *Tilia tomentosa* 'Varsaviensis'

## Varsaviensis Silver Lime



*Tilia tomentosa* 'Varsaviensis' (Varsaviensis silver lime, synonym *Tilia* x 'Varsaviensis') was discovered in 1900 and named by Polish botanist Roman Kobendza in 1951. Originally thought to be a hybrid of *Tilia tomentosa* x *Tilia platyphyllos*, after 1992, however, the tree was deemed as a cultivar of *Tilia tomentosa*. The slow grower develops a compact habit in its juvenile state with a dense pyramidal crown but ultimately becomes a large tree of around twenty to twenty-five metres tall. *Tilia tomentosa* 'Varsaviensis' has a vigorous upright main trunk and ascending branches which results in a narrow crown between eight and ten metres wide.

The almost round to heart-shaped leaves of the selection 'Varsaviensis' emerge grey-green and are hairy; in summer they have a glossy dark green top side with a white downy, grey underside. In warm weather the leaves turn, losing less water through evaporation and the tree acquires a silvery appearance in the process. In autumn the leaf remains green for a long time and then changes colour to light yellow and remains on the tree a while. The Varsaviensis lime blooms in July with strongly-scented, cream-yellow drooping inflorescences. *Tilia tomentosa* 'Varsaviensis' has olive-brown, downy haired twigs and a smooth, dark grey bark which remains smooth as it matures.

*Tilia tomentosa* 'Varsaviensis' is very robust, grows easily and is resistant to strong (coastal) winds and air pollution and resilient on paved surfaces. The selection grows on any kind of soil although prefers loamy and nutrient-rich soils. The attribute that this tree will also thrive on dryer soils is very useful in many urban settings. Thanks to its uniform, narrow crown and the fact it is not affected by lice, the selection 'Varsaviensis' makes an excellent choice for planting in streets, avenues and squares. As is the case with all limes, a sound substrate very well suited to improving the habitat of trees is advisable.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, shade trees

### USE

**Location:** street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, roof garden, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, countryside, windbreak, coastal area | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Eco planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** narrow pyramidal | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 20 - 25 m | **Width:** 8 - 10 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6A - 10B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind, tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** very dry, dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, nectar value 5, pollen value 5 | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** corymbose, striking, pendulous, strongly scented | **Flower colour:** cream-yellow | **Flowering period:** July - July | **Leaf colour:** dark green, underside felty white | **Leaves:** deciduous, cordate, big, polished, underside hairy | **Autumn colour:** pale yellow | **Fruits:** discrete, nut | **Fruit colour:** grey-green | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth, smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** brown-green | **Twigs:** hairy, vertical branches | **Root system:** deep, extensive, coarse roots

