

Common Lime                      scientific name Tilia

*Tilia* is a large deciduous tree typically reaching 20 to 40 m (130 ft) tall with oblique-cordate leaves 6 to 20 centimetres (2 to 8 in) across.

Lime trees are not closely related to lime fruit, other names for this tree are linden and basswood. The lime tree produces a tiny fruit which resembles a pea. Lime trees are an important food tree for bees and honey produced from lime trees is very pale but richly flavoured. Lime tree flowers can be used for medicinal purposes often in teas and tinctures.

Lime timber is soft and easily worked and is often used for the bodies of electric guitars. It is also often used for the shells of drums and for wind instruments like recorders.

Lime timber was used for sculpture from the Middle Ages onwards and was the favoured timber of Grinling Gibbons. The wood is used in marionette and puppet making and carving. Having a fine light grain and being comparatively light in weight it is has been used for centuries for this purpose despite the availability of modern alternatives it remains one of the main materials used even today.

The various Common Limes at Conyngham Hall are all between 60 to 100 years old and are an attractive part of the tree trail.

Information provided Wikipedia and Harrogate Borough Council.