

# TREE SPECIES FACT SHEETS

## Linden Tree (*Tilia cordata* 'Green Spire')

### Origins

*Tilia cordata* is a deciduous tree native to Europe and is believed to have been planted as a shade tree since ancient times.

### Characteristics

'Green Spire' is a handsome cultivar (cultivated variety) with an overall form that is upright and pyramidal. It grows with a single, straight trunk and radially symmetrical branching habit. Considered one of the lowest maintenance cultivars of *Tilia cordata*, 'Green Spire' has a moderate growth rate and is somewhat smaller than the species, growing to about 12m tall and 6m wide. Its canopy is quite dense providing excellent shade in the warmer months. The flowers are yellowish and pleasantly fragrant and appear in summer. Showy round, dry, brown fruits follow the flowers. *Tilia cordata* 'Green Spire' has leaves that are dark green above and paler below. They are almost heart-shaped and change to a lovely yellow-green in autumn. The bark is a grey-brown colour and older trunks may be ridged and rough in texture.

### Suitable uses

It is highly suitable for use as a street and city tree as well as in parks and gardens. *Tilia cordata* is tolerant of drought, compacted soils and urban areas.

### Locations in Melbourne

City of Melbourne streets with *Tilia cordata* 'Greenspire' include:

- **New plantings:** Faraday Street, between Cardigan and Drummond Streets, Carlton (Mel Ref: 2B, G7)
- **New plantings:** Jolimont Road, Jolimont (Mel Ref: 2G, B5).



Semi-mature tree



Autumn Foliage



Foliage/ seed

## Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*)

### Origins

*Brachychiton populneus* originates from the dry rainforest and hillside habitats of Western Australia and is a member of the Sterculiaceae family.

### Characteristics

*Brachychiton populneus* is an attractive shade tree that lends itself to use in avenues and streetscapes where it grows to between 10 and 15 metres high and 5 – 8 metres wide at maturity.

*Brachychiton populneus* is upright, with a dense rounded crown. The leaves are variable in shape and are darker green on the upper surface than the lower surface. The juvenile foliage and occasionally the more mature foliage can have three distinct sharp lobes.

Between September and December, the tree produces separate male and female flowers that are small, bell shaped, and are greenish white externally and purplish brown internally. Following flowering, boat shaped seed pods between 4 and 7cm long are produced, and can be held by the tree for an extended period. The pods contain between 8 and 18 seeds that are yellow, with their lower surface covered in fine hairs.

### Suitable uses

*Brachychiton populneus* is an adaptable tree to a broad range of climatic and soil conditions and has been found to cope with humid, warm and dry environments.

### Locations in Melbourne

The City of Melbourne currently has no full streets of *Brachychiton populneus*, however semi mature specimens can be seen along the western side of The Avenue, between MacArthur Road and Royal Parade, Parkville (Mel Ref: 2B, B3).



Semi-mature tree



Seedpod

Flowers/Foliage

Se



## Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*)

### Origins

*Zelkova serrata* originates from Japan, Korea, eastern China and Taiwan, and is of the family Ulmaceae.

### Characteristics

*Zelkova serrata* is an attractive deciduous tree with vertical branches that combine to form a broad, round-topped canopy. The tree grows to approximately 14 metres tall at maturity.

The leaves are bright green and ovate with distinct serrated margins, turning yellow to coppery bronze and red in autumn.

The bark is predominantly grey and smooth, with small patches that flake to expose a faint reddish colour.

### Similar species

*Zelkova serrata* is closely related to Elms (*Ulmus sp.*), providing a broad spreading canopy in the warmer months. However, *Zelkova serrata* is resistant to Dutch Elm Disease and not troubled by Elm leaf beetle.

### Suitable uses

*Zelkova serrata* is a hardy tree that can adapt to high heat, little water and nutrient poor soils making it a suitable choice for urban environments.

### Locations in Melbourne

City of Melbourne streets with *Zelkova serrata* include:

- **Young trees:** Acland St, between Anderson and Walsh St, South Yarra (Mel Ref: 2L, 2D).
- **Semi-mature trees** can be seen in the median of Whiteman St, between Clarendon St and Kings Way, Southbank (Mel Ref: 2F, B9).



Semi-mature tree



Foliage

Autumn foliage