

Linden

(*Tilia cordata* – Littleleaf Linden, *Tilia americana* – American Linden/Basswood)

Lindens are popular shade and ornamental trees in Colorado, prized for their heart-shaped leaves, fragrant flowers, and strong structure. They are generally hardy but susceptible to **Japanese beetles**, **aphids**, **leaf scorch**, **Verticillium wilt**, and **environmental stress**, especially in hot, dry urban sites.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons:  Spring |  Summer |  Fall |  Winter

Problem	Type	Active Season	Icons
Aphids (several species)	Insect	Spring–Fall	  
Japanese beetle	Insect/defoliator	Summer	

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Active Season</u>	<u>Icons</u>
Leaf miners	Insect	Summer	
Verticillium wilt	Fungus	Spring–Fall (symptoms peak Summer)	  
Anthracnose / Leaf spot diseases	Fungus	Spring infection; visible Spring–Summer	 
Environmental leaf scorch	Abiotic	Summer	
Salt/infrastructure stress	Abiotic	Winter–Spring	 

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Aphids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sticky honeydew dripping from canopy • Sooty mold on leaves and vehicles • Curling or distorted foliage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water-spray to remove aphids • Encourage predators (lady beetles) • Systemic insecticide in heavy infestations
Japanese Beetle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skeletonized leaves • Brown, lacy foliage mid-summer • Large clusters of feeding beetles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pro-applied systemic treatments • Hand-pick beetles in early morning • Avoid watering lawns excessively (reduces grub populations)

<u>Problem</u>	<u>Common Symptoms</u>	<u>Treatment & Management</u>
Leaf Miners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown “blisters” inside leaves • Tunneling patterns • Early leaf drop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typically cosmetic • Prune affected areas if concentrated • Professional treatment only if widespread
Verticillium Wilt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sudden wilting on one side of tree • Leaf yellowing/browning • Greenish-brown streaks in sapwood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No chemical cure • Remove affected limbs • Deep watering, mulch, and stress reduction help slow progression
Anthracnose / Leaf Spot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tan/brown blotches • Early leaf drop during wet springs • Distorted, curled leaves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually cosmetic • Rake and remove infected leaves • Improve airflow; avoid overhead irrigation
Environmental Leaf Scorch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crispy brown leaf edges • Yellowing between veins • Often appears after hot, dry winds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep water every 2–3 weeks in summer • Maintain mulch ring • Provide supplemental irrigation in prolonged heat
Salt / De-icer Damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browning on roadside-facing side • Thin canopy in spring • Stunted new growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redirect runoff • Flush soil in spring • Apply mulch to buffer roots

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (action recommended)

- Large sections of canopy turn brown or wilt suddenly
- One-sided dieback (possible **Verticillium wilt**)
- Heavy honeydew dripping constantly (major aphid outbreak)
- Skeletonized leaves across whole canopy (Japanese beetles)

- Repeated leaf scorch year after year indicating chronic root stress

These warrant **professional assessment or treatment adjustments**.

● **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light leaf spotting in wet springs
- Minor honeydew with no branch dieback
- Occasional leaf miner damage
- Early fall color from heat/drought
- Small patches of scorch after extreme summer heat

These issues often resolve through **better watering and routine maintenance**.