

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

| <u>Problem</u> | <u>Type</u> | <u>Active Season</u> | <u>Icons</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 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**.