



Small-leaved Lime

Object No. 9 | Špilberk Castle

Špilberk Castle has an inherent atmosphere that invites for relaxing walks. From there you have a perfect view of the whole Brno and its surroundings. Now you're standing in front of the Small-leaved Lime, which was planted below the Castle as a Tree of peace, an evidence of a respect for life and as a symbol of a durable understanding.

A truly remarkable place has been selected for it. Špilberk Castle, together with the neighbouring park, were declared as a national cultural monument. Previously it was a bare, rocky hill, and on its foot only a few vineyards and gardens existed. It was only in the mid-19th century, when the hill finally lost its defensive importance. Therefore, the then Mayor of Brno Christian d'Elvert issued the instruction to plant green on Špilberk hillsides. Works began in 1861 and lasted, with some short interruptions, for 20 years.

Small-leaved Lime, *Tilia cordata* in Latin, is also called Small-leaved Linden or Little-leaf Linden. It grows up to a height of about 30 m, which is the height of a ten-story building. Shiny cordate leaves grow alternately on the branches and are lined with a finely serrate edge. In the axils of the veins on the lower side of the leaf grow rusty tufts of hair. Fragrant, yellowish-white flowers are intergrown with membranous bract. This bract looks like a wing, which in the autumn with the help of the wind spreads fruits of a spherical shape, i.e. nuts.

Limes may live up to several hundreds of years. Another Small-leaved Lime, in Brno-Bystrc, that received the title of a memorable tree in 2000, is considered to be the oldest tree in whole Brno. Nearly 400-year-old tree provides enough shade to visitors of the restaurant "U Šťávů" during hot days.

From of old, a lime has been planted as a memorable or a village square tree. Slavs have chosen lime as their national symbol in June 1848 at the Pan-Slavic congress in Prague. It was a response to the Frankfurt Parliament, where oak was elected as the symbol of The Greater Germany

Its strong smell attracts bees, so it is an important melliferous plant. It blooms from June to July, flowers are widely used in folk medicine. It helps with colds, promotes perspiration and dissolves mucus, and it also has a beneficial effect on diseases of the digestive and urinary system. If you are going to gather lime flowers in the city or in the park, make sure that it is not the *Tilia tomentosa* Moench. Their flowers do not have the desired effect; on the contrary, they can cause digestive problems. Only *Tilia cordata* and *Tilia platyphyllos* Scop. or the hybrid, which is known as *Tilia europaea* L. p.p., are suitable for gathering.

Limes are also highly prized for a solid, wide bast and soft wood that is suitable for wood carving processing. In the past were from the bast made ropes, shoes, mats and containers for corn. Many of the altars and statues of the saints are carved from lime, which has gained the nickname "holy wood".

People born between March 11 and 20 and from September 13 to 22 belong according to the Celtic tree horoscope among the limes. Typical for them is heartiness, they are smart and sensitive, able to understand and to forgive. The rule of the lime leads, inside its holders, to eternal struggle between the reality of everyday life and romantic illusions.