

Tulip poplar

Liriodendron tulipifera

Description: It is recommended as a shade tree. The tree's tall and rapid growth is a function of its shade intolerance.

Height: It can grow to more than 50 m (160 ft) in virgin cove forests of the Appalachian Mountains, often with no limbs until it reaches 25–30 m (82–98 ft) in height

Fruit: Narrow light brown cone, formed by many samara-like carpels which fall, leaving the axis persistent all winter.

Bark: The bark is brown, and furrowed. The branches are smooth, and lustrous, initially reddish, maturing to dark gray, and finally brown. Aromatic and bitter.

Flowers: May. Perfect, solitary, terminal, greenish yellow, borne on stout peduncles, an inch and a half to two inches long, cup-shaped, erect, conspicuous. The bud is enclosed in a sheath of two triangular bracts which fall as the blossom opens.

Habitat: It prefers deep, rich, and rather moist soil; it is common, though not abundant, nor is it solitary. Its roots are fleshy. Growth is fairly rapid, and the typical form of its head is conical.

Fun Facts: The soft, fine-grained wood of tulip trees is known as "poplar" (short for "yellow poplar") in the U.S., but marketed abroad as "American tulipwood" or by other names. It is very widely used where a cheap, easy-to-work and stable wood is needed.

