

## REFERENCES

1. Arbor Day Foundation. (). Tuliptree . In [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org). Retrieved Sept. 18, 2011, from <http://www.arborday.org/programs/nationaltree/tuliptree.cfm>.
2. Department of Natural Resources. (). Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). In [www.dnr.state.oh.us](http://www.dnr.state.oh.us). Retrieved Sept. 18, 2011, from <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home/trees/tuliptree/tabid/5428/Default.aspx>.
3. Fara, Heather. (). Tulip-tree, tuliptree magnolia, tulip poplar, yellow poplar . In [flmnh.ufl.edu](http://flmnh.ufl.edu). Retrieved Sept. 18, 2011, from <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/flowerpower/poplar.html>.
4. Grimm, W. C. (2002) *Trees*. Mechanicsburg, PA. Stackpole Books.
5. OPLIN. (1997-2001). Tuliptree (Yellow poplar). In [www.oplin.org](http://www.oplin.org). Retrieved Sept. 18, 2011, from [http://www.oplin.org/tree/fact%20pages/tulip\\_tree/tulip\\_tree.html](http://www.oplin.org/tree/fact%20pages/tulip_tree/tulip_tree.html).
6. Wcisel, Karen. (2004-2009). Tuliptree fact Sheet. In [treetopics.com](http://www.treetopics.com). Retrieved Sept. 18, 2011, from [http://www.treetopics.com/liriodendron\\_tulipifera/index.htm](http://www.treetopics.com/liriodendron_tulipifera/index.htm).

### Pests:

Although there is not a pest that is damaging to the Tuliptree, the aphid can be a problem. As it feeds on new growth it leaves a sticky substance on the leaves called honeydew. This sticky material is food heaven for mold and leads to black fungus on the leaves, not pretty!(2)

### Economic importance:

Due to the light and soft nature of the Tuliptree wood, it is ideal for wood crafting and is used commercially for furniture, toys, and other wood products. In the lumber industry it is know as yellow poplar. It is also sold as shade and decorative trees where lots of space is available for the fast growing, large tree. (4)

### Multiple Choice Question:

In what family does the Tulip tree belong:

- A. Poplar
- B. Magnolia
- C. Maple

# Tuliptree

## *Liriodendron Tulipifera*

### Family: Magnoliaceae



Botany 155

Tree presentation

By: Kerry Boulton

# Tuliptree: *Liriodendron tulipifera* Family: Magnoliaceae



Tulip tree (5)

The Tuliptree is also referred to as the yellow poplar, tulip poplar, or tulip magnolia. It is a member of the Magnolia family and is a hardwood native to eastern North America ranging from southern Michigan to the northern parts of Florida. (4) The tree was popular in early American history for canoe making, due to its light and easy to work with wood. It was also a source of teas and ointments for medicinal uses. George Washington was especially fond of the Tuliptree as he planted them in the gardens of his Mount Vernon home which were later crowned the official tree during bicentennial celebrations. (1)

**Known for its beautiful late spring flowers and a unique leaf shape, the Tuliptree is easily recognizable.**

## Size:

Mature trees range in height from 80-100ft with even greater heights near 180ft in the mountains. They develop very large, straight trunks that are usually 2-5ft in diameter but can also be up to 12ft in diameter in older trees. Branching usually begins at a high point on the trunk leaving a large distance between first branches and the ground.(4)



Very large tree trunk

## Leaves:

The Tuliptree leaf is alternate, simple, and entire, with 4 palmate lobes (sometimes 6) and a very distinctive square shape (truncate). The blade is 4-6 inches wide and about the same in length with long petioles of 3-6 inches. The leaves are bright green with a luster in the summer and turn a deep yellow in the fall. (4)



(2)

## Flowers:



Spring flower(3)

The beautiful flower resembles a tulip. It has 3 sepals and 6 petals which are a pale green or yellow color with bright orange at the base of each petal. Flowers bloom in late May. Bees use this flower to produce honey.(4)

## Fruit:

The aggregate fruit is formed from many carpels. It has a cone shape and is 2-3 inches in length. The fruits mature in the fall and take on a woody appearance. The individual samaras are winged and allow the wind to carry them distances up to 5 times the tree height. Once on the ground the seeds can be viable for 4-7 years! (6)



(3)

**Did you know???**

***Liriodendron Tulipifera* is currently the official state tree for Indiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky!!**