

# TULIP TREE

**Scientific name:**

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

**Pronunciation:** leer-ee-

oh-DEN-drawn

too-lih-PIFF-er-uh

**Common name(s):**

Tuliptree, Tulip-Poplar,

Yellow-Poplar

**Family:** *Magnoliaceae*



**Habitat:**

The tulip tree is native to North America. It grows throughout the Eastern United States from southern New England, west through southern Ontario and Michigan, south to Louisiana, then east to north-central Florida. In the valley of the Ohio River and on the mountain slopes of North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia is where you would see most of these trees reach their largest size. (Wildwnc.org)

**Climate**

The Tulip Tree grows under a variety of climatic conditions because of its wide geographic distribution. Effects of temperature and moisture extremes are tempered usually by local topography. (Wildwnc.org)



**Liriodendron Tulipifera**

**Characteristics of Leaves:** The leaves have an alternate arrangement, the leaf type is simple, the leaf margin is lobed; entire, the leaf venation is pinnate, the leaf color is green and in the fall they turn yellow, and the leaf blade length is 4-8 inches. (Forest Service)

**Characteristics of Flowers:** The flower color is green and yellow and it has a very nice fragrance. They appear in summer as large, tulip-like yellow flowers with orange bands near their centers. The flowers began like cone shaped fruit in the fall, they provide a bounty seed finches, cardinals, rabbits, squirrels. The flower is a perfect flower, which is 4 to 5 cm wide, with six petals. The tulip trees usually produce their first flowers at 15 to 20 years of age and may continue production for 200 years. Flowering occurs from April to June depending on location and weather conditions. (Wildwnc.org, inwoodlands.org)

**Damaging Agents:** The tulip tree scale (*Toumeyella liriodendri*) causes loss of vigor by removing large quantities of sap. The yellow-poplar weevil (*Odontopus calceatus*) feeds on buds and foliage and may occur in outbreaks over large areas. The rootcollar borer (*Euzophera ostricolorella*) attacks the phloem tissue at the base of the tree and provides entry points for rots and other pathogens. Attacks by the Columbian timber beetle (*Corthylus columbianus*) do not kill the tree but may degrade the wood. (Wildwnc.org)

**Diseases:** Several cankers attack the tulip tree. Branches become infected and dieback from the tip to the point of infection. Leaf spots are often seen on the tulip tree but are not serious. Powdery mildew causes a white coating on the leaves and is not usually harmful. (Forest Service)

**Trunk and Braches:** The trunk grows upright and will not droop, the current year twig color is brown and the twig thickness is medium. (1)

**Fruit:** The fruit shape is elongated, the fruit length is 1 to 3 inches, coned shaped, the fruit covering is dry or hard, the fruit color is brown, and the fruit attracts birds. (Forest Service)

#### Works Cited

Watson, Dennis, and Gilman Edward. "Liriodendron tulipifera Tuliptree." *Forest Service, Department of Agriculture*. (1993): 1-4. Print. (1)

Beck, Donald. "Tulip Tree." *Western North Carolina Nature Center*. 2009. Web. 27 Sep 2009. <wildwnc.org>. (2)

"State Tree of Indiana." *Indiana Forestry*. 6/29/2009. The Woodland Stewart, Web. 27 Sep 2009. <<http://www.inwoodlands.org/>>. (3)



**Special Uses:** The tulip tree can be used for various uses. The most popular uses of the wood include lumber for furniture parts, core stocks, rotary cut veneer for use of cross bands in construction of furniture parts, and in plywood for backs. (Wildwnc.org)

#### Question:

What is the leaf arrangement of the Tulip Tree?

- A. Alternate
- B. Opposite
- C. Whorled

