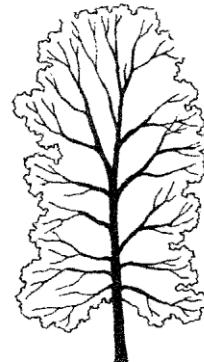


Liriodendron

Magnoliaceae

Tulip Tree, Yellow Poplar

Liriodendron tulipifera



GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This native American tree is very majestic in its' habit because of the very long central stem (bole) that results in a tall tree with a narrow oval-rounded crown. In nature the tree can be free of branches three quarters of the way up the trunk. Especially characteristic is the unique shape of the bright green leaves that have a square lobed shape. The flowers are "tulip like" with large yellow petals, many stamens, and a cone like arrangement of the many free pistils (similar to *Magnolia*). Since these flowers are borne high in the tree they are often overlooked. The bark is a grayish brown with tight interlacing rounded ridges separated by grayish crevices.

HABIT AND SIZE: 70-90' tall and half as wide (can grow to 200'). In situations with no crowding by adjacent trees the form is pyramidal when young and becoming towering and wide spreading (oval-rounded) with several large, outstretched, high branches when mature.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: A very noble tree for the larger landscape. The tall straight stature, the uniquely shaped leaves and the flowers are all positive assets. The cone like fruit can be a messy problem. Jefferson surrounded his home Monticello with these trees.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged, simple 3-8" in both length and width with a broad squared off apex, short squared pointed lobes on each side and a rounded to squarish base. Color bright green on top and paler on the underside. Turning golden yellow to yellow in the fall.

FLOWERS: Perfect, terminally located, solitary and bell-shaped. 3 petaloid sepals that are recurved, 6 yellow spreading petals in 2 rows, numerous stamens and pistils.

FRUIT: An aggregation of samaras into a cone-like structure 2-3" long that turns brown in the fall and persists through the winter.

BUD: Terminal buds 0.5" long with scales not overlapping (valvate) greenish to reddish brown and covered with a waxy bloom and white spotted. The buds look like a ducks bill. Lateral buds much smaller but similar in appearance.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: Aphids are a significant problem with the production of "honeydew" followed by sooty mold fungus causing a blackening of the leaves.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 4-9. Mass. to Wise. south to Fla. and Miss.

CULTIVARS: '*Aureo-marginatum*'- has yellow or greenish yellow margined leaves, '*Fastigiatum*'- an upright form, '*Integrifolium*'- a lobeless square leaved form.