

Tulip Tree

Liriodendron tulipifera



Description: large trees to 150 feet tall, 4 plus feet diameter with straight, column like trunks and rounded or spreading crowns. Leaf shape and flowers resemble tulips. Duckbill shaped buds

Leaves: alternate on twig, simple, formed singly on long 2.5 to 4 in slender leaf stocks. Blades 4 to 6 in across with four broad lobes, the upper two, separated by a broad notch forming a “tulip-like” silhouette, edges smooth bright green and smooth above, paler below. Turn bright yellow and fall

Bark: gray, whitish within fissures on young trees becomes thick, with deep furrows and broad ridges with age

Flowers: Bisexual flowers formed singly in May large to 2 in cup shaped tulip like hence name of tree, 6 green and orange, waxy pedals many reproductive parts

Fruits: fruit and upright cone light cluster to 3 in long many seeds. Wing, angled seeds when dispersed and fall and sometimes on snow

Habita/Ranget: Upland woods with rich, moist soil. Often found in fence rows and fertile old fields. A fine ornamental tree and widely planted in lawns and parks. Found throughout Indiana

Notes: Tulip tree is Indiana's state tree. Called yellow poplar by Foresters.