



YELLOW POPLAR (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)



Yellow Poplar (Tulip Tree)



The yellow poplar tree is also called tulip tree, tulip poplar, white poplar, and whitewood.

Hardiness: Zones 4 through 9

Growth Rate: Fast

Mature Shape: Narrow to rounded, oval

Height: Mature size varies with species, ranging from 50 feet to 100 feet.

Flowering Dates: April - June Producing tulip-shaped flowers with aromatic stems.

Seed Dispersal Dates: October – November

Sun Preference: Full Sun

Soil Preference: Acidic, Clay, Loamy, Moist, Sandy, Well Drained, Loose Textured



The Tuliptree Grows in zones 4 - 9

Wildlife Value: This tree provides food in many forms for many animals. In fall and winter, young trees are browsed by white-tailed deer and rabbits. The spring flowers provide nectar for honeybees, and ruby-throated hummingbirds. Tulip tree seeds, maturing in summer and persisting into winter, provide food for both birds and mammals, including finches, cardinals, quail, mice, red squirrels, gray squirrels and rabbits. Its twigs and branches are browsed heavily by deer and livestock. Rabbits also eat the bark and buds of young trees.

History/Lore: Once plentiful in their natural habitat in eastern America, tulip trees were favored by loggers for railroad ties and fence posts. George Washington planted tulip trees at Mount Vernon which are now 140' tall. And Daniel Boone used the wood of this tree for his 60' dugout canoe. One can argue about whether the "tulips" are the outline of its leaves or its cup-shaped flowers. But both undoubtedly contributed to the fanciful name given to this tree by early settlers. And the tulip tree is still beloved for its beauty today, serving as the state tree of Kentucky, Indiana, and Tennessee.

Pollinator Friendly: Seedlings of this species cannot tolerate flooding for more than a few days during the growing season, and will die if planted in moderate to dense shade. This species received its common name from the yellow color of its heartwood and its attractive, tulip-like flowers. Its leaves are distinctive and easily recognized, with four lobes in the shape of a tulip flower.

Yellow Poplar Wood: It is one of the most attractive and tallest of eastern hardwoods. The tree's wood is comparatively soft, is easily worked and is suitable for a variety of products. It is commonly used as core-stock for furniture and veneer; it is also used for construction lumber. It is said that Pennsylvania Indians used its long, straight trunks for making dugout canoes. Its straight trunk and symmetrical, spreading crown make it a desirable ornamental species. Yellow poplar is one of the largest and most valuable hardwood trees in the United States. It reaches its largest size on deep moist soils along streams and in lower mountain coves, where it commonly attains a height of 90 to 120 feet and a trunk diameter of from two to five feet. When planted in full sun light on good sites, five-year-old yellow poplar trees may be 10 to 18 feet tall. The trunks become massive in old age and deeply furrowed with thick bark. The wood is used commercially for **furniture, musical instruments, and interior finishes**. It is planted widely as an ornamental and shade tree, and bees will utilize the blossoms for making honey.

Yellow Poplar Leaves: Features bright green leaves that resemble tulip flowers that turn a vibrant yellow in the fall.