

Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)

The Tulip Tree is native and can be found growing in most local woodlots. Many people call it Tulip Poplar or Yellow Poplar, it is in fact not a poplar, but is in the Magnolia family. This is evident when you compare the flowers of this tree with other members of the Magnolia family. The Tulip Tree typically grows up to 90 feet tall with a spread of about 40 feet.

The Tulip Tree is one of the tallest and most beautiful eastern hardwoods, with a long, straight trunk, a narrow crown that spreads with age, and large showy flowers resembling tulips or lilies. The leaves are waxy and smooth, and dependably turn bright gold in fall. Showy, yellow-orange, tulip-like flowers are often missed because they are up 50 ft. or higher in the tops of trees. Cone-shaped seedheads remain after leaves have fallen.

This is Indiana's state tree. Many of the early cabins and other structures were built from this tree. The fact that the trunk tends to be long and straight makes it perfect for building material. Once plentiful in their natural habitat in eastern America, Tulip trees were favored by loggers for railroad ties and fence posts. George Washington planted them at Mount Vernon which are now 140' tall. And Daniel Boone used the wood of this tree for his 60' dugout canoe.