





Liriodendron tulipifera

Tulip-Poplar, Tuliptree

Tried and True
Native Plants
of the Mid-Atlantic

Common throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region, Tuliptree is aptly named from the shape of its flowers and leaves to the samara whorls persisting like wooden tulips until spring. It is an excellent shade or ornamental tree for a large property, sited best on lower or concave slopes. It is the favorite tree of Mr. President and the First Lady, bald eagles nesting 80 feet high in a Tulip-Poplar in the U.S. National Arboretum.



Tree	Flowers, Leaves, Fruit, Trees, Mature Bark	
Height: 70–100 feet		
Spread: 35–50 feet		
Bloom Color: Greenish-yellow		
Characteristics		
Long-lived, fast-growing, tall and straight-trunked deciduous tree with pyramidal shape when young	 	
Alternate, smooth, shiny green, tulip-shaped leaves, paler green beneath; yellow fall foliage		
Showy, tulip-like flowers blooming April to June		
Fruits (samaras) aggregated in a cone-like structure that breaks apart Oct–Nov leaving a tulip-like whorl in bare branches until spring	 	
Shallow, longitudinal, whitish furrows become deep and interlacing on mature bark		
Attributes		
Tolerates clay soil, black walnut; sensitive to heat (esp. radiated from structures), drought; susceptible to wind/ice damage in exposed areas; no serious pests (aphid secretions can be a nuisance and lead to sooty mold growth) or diseases (canker most serious); deer seldom severely damage		
Sheds small and lower branches as it grows	Excellent Replacement for	
Soil Requirements: Well-drained, organically rich	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> - Tree of Heaven	
Light Requirements: Sun, Partial Shade	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> - European Alder	
Water Requirements: Moist	<i>Quercus acutissima Carruthers</i> - Sawtooth Oak	
Prune to ground every 2–3 years to grow as shrub	<i>Ulmus pumila L.</i> - Siberian Elm	
Use as shade or ornamental tree on large property		
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4-9		

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, private garden, Arlington, VA, Longwood Gardens, & Oatlands and by Mary Free (middle), Fairlington Community Center



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