

Liriodendron tulipifera



tuliptree

Family	Magnoliaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	FACU	CoC	5



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DESCRIPTION

Large tree (to 50 m tall) with clear straight trunk, light gray bark and shallow furrows and ridges. Twigs are purplish-brown and shiny, and the winter buds at the tips of branches are a distinct duck-bill shape. Leaves are simple, alternate and smooth with distinctive flattened top and base and four pointed lobes. They turn a dull to bright yellow in the fall.

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

May; September to October. The solitary tulip-like flowers (4 to 6 cm) appear after the leaves and are yellow-green with orange bands near the base of the petals. Fruits are cone-like clusters of rigid narrow-winged samaras (2 to 4.5 cm).

HABITAT

Moist to dry upland forests, floodplain forests, seepage swamps and old fields.

SIMILAR SPECIES

None.



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