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Plant Finder



Tuliptree

Liriodendron tulipifera

Height: 50 feet

Spread: 25 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Tulip Magnolia, Yellow Poplar, Whitewood

Description:

Great shade tree for urban areas with limited space. The tuliptree is low mess and tolerant of adverse conditions like high soil pH & limited space. Flowers offer very nice late spring interest. Flower quantity will increase with maturity.

Ornamental Features

Tuliptree has buttery yellow cup-shaped flowers with yellow eyes and orange centers held atop the branches from mid to late spring. It has emerald green deciduous foliage. The square leaves turn an outstanding gold in the fall. The furrowed gray bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Tuliptree is a dense deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance tree, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Tuliptree is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Shade
- Vertical Accent



Tuliptree

Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Tuliptree flowers

Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Planting & Growing

Tuliptree will grow to be about 50 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 25 feet. It has a high canopy with a typical clearance of 6 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. As it matures, the lower branches of this tree can be strategically removed to create a high enough canopy to support unobstructed human traffic underneath. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 90 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is native to parts of North America.