

Liriodendron tulipifera
Tulip tree, American tulip tree, tuliptree, tulip poplar, whitewood, fiddle-tree, yellow poplar



Liriodendron tulipifera (American tulip tree) belongs to the *Magnoliaceae* family and was widespread in prehistoric times, but later on only grew in the Eastern United States. Here, it is still one of the most important types of hardwood. The tree naturally grows in moist environments, along with *Nyssa sylvatica, Taxodium distichum* and *Liquidambar styraciflua.* It grows on the lower slopes of the Appalachians with *Cornus florida*, *Acer rubrum, Juglans nigra, Robinia pseudoacacia* and *Pinus strobus.* And higher up, where the tree can reach its maximum height of a whopping 80 metres, along with *Fraxinus americana, Quercus rubra* and *Acer saccharum.* In cultivation, the tree does not grow taller than 35 to 40 metres or wider than 10 to 15 metres. The crown is open and widely ovoid, and the trunk is perfectly straight.

When it is older, *Liriodendron tulipifera* blooms tulip-shaped flowers that stay on the tree from early June to way into July. They are beautiful flowers with a yellow-orange heart, which do not stand out due to their greenish exterior and because they are high up in the tree. The leaves are a fresh green with a blue-green underside and have a characteristic tulip shape with four lobes. Its autumn colours range from spectacularly bright yellow to golden yellow; in that season, the tree is an absolute showpiece in every park and every (large) garden. Its decorative bark is a striking light-grey, with net-like furrows.

The tulip tree naturally occurs in soils that are rich and fertile with a lot of space to root, to river islands that are sandy and moist but not flooded. Later on - when the tree is about 15 years old - it develops a deep taproot, making it very wind-proof and drought-proof. But the wood of the *Liriodendron tulipifera* is brittle, and to prevent the branches from blowing out, the species should definitely be planted in an area that is sheltered from the wind. Plant the American tulip tree in an environment with nutrient-rich, permeable soil and sunlight for the most beautiful autumn colours.

SEASONAL COLOURS

jan	feb	mar	apr	mei	jun	jul	aug	sep	okt	nov	dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, shade trees

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts**: Eco planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: egg-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 25 - 30 m | **Width**: 10 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5B - 10A

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, butterflies, nectar value 3, pollen value 3 | **Extreme environments**: tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: tulip-shaped, striking, standing | **Flower colour**: orange, yellow-green | **Flowering period**: June - July | **Leaf colour**: pale green, underside blue-green | **Leaves**: deciduous, laciniate, lobate | **Autumn colour**: golden yellow | **Fruits**: striking, winged, nut, cones | **Fruit colour**: brown | **Bark colour**: pale grey | **Bark**: furrowed | **Twig colour**: brown-violet | **Twigs**: bare, with lenticels | **Root system**: deep, shallow, extensive, fleshy roots, tap root

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