

Liriodendron tulipifera L.



Common Name	Tulip Poplar, Whitewood
Botanical Name	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Family	Magnoliaceae
Form	Tree
Growth Habit	The Tulip Poplar is a deciduous tree growing from 100'-200' in height and 2'-3' in width, though it does not commonly reach the greatest of these measurements. Single-trunked with a narrow crown and branches that point up.
Bark	Dark grey or brown with ridges.
Leaves	Broad, medium-green leaves from 3"-6" long with 4-6 shallow, pointed lobes. Occur alternately on stems and turn yellow or orange in the fall.
Flowers	Cup-shaped from 1 ½"-2 ½" in width, appearing singly on the stem in the springtime. There are 6 petals and the color is a light greenish-yellow with an orange band around the base.

Fruit	The fruit is 2"-3" long, pointed, and conical. It has a light brown color and contains multiple winged seeds.
Soil conditions	Rich, moist soil that is well-drained.
Water	These trees need a moist location for good growth and a long life-span, and care must be taken to water them during dry periods.
Light Requirement	Full sun or the light shade of a hammock.
Native Growth Zone	8-9
Propagation	Seed, cuttings, grafting
Habitat	Moist deciduous forests of Florida south to Lake County.
Remarks	These trees, though they are a signature tree of the Florida landscape, do not transplant easily and can grow to be so tall that they become a problem in a landscaped setting. Their height makes them vulnerable to lightning strikes. In a natural setting, they may be found in mono-specific stands. The hardwood of the Tulip Poplar is a principle commercial wood.
Works Consulted	National Audubon Society Field Guide to Trees, Native Florida Plants, The Trees of Florida, Florida Landscape Plants, Smithsonian Handbooks: Trees, Hortus Third