

Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place

Tuliptree



Latin name: <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Texture: Medium
Common name: Tuliptree, Yellow Poplar	Growth rate: Fast, long-lived
Zones: 4-9	Light: Full sun
Height & Width: 80-120'h x 25-40'w	Moisture: Medium, drought sensitive
Type: Deciduous	Soil: Acid, pH 5.0-6.5*
Habit: Pyramidal in youth, oval later	Origin: Eastern United States

Features: Distinctive light green lobed leaves turn bright yellow in autumn. Upright flowers have greenish-yellow petals with orange corollas that resemble tulips in spring. Bark is gray-brown with close furrows and ridges.

Siting: Tuliptree requires ample above and below ground space. Place in an area with more than 200 square feet of total planting area; in a planting strip at least 7' wide; or place at least 6' from pavement or wall. Bark is thin and should be protected from machinery and other disturbances. Roots prefer deep moist well-drained loam soil and may tolerate occasional wetness. Plants are salt sensitive. Tuliptree groves are ideal for parks, botanical gardens, and estates.

Care: Transplant from containers at any time of the year but plant field grown plants in spring. Plant so root flare is visible in loose soil high in organic matter. Deep soil, plenty of sun, and moisture during establishment are ideal. At planting, water the root ball daily with two gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for two weeks, every other day for two months, and then weekly until established. Do not over water or saturate the soil. Apply 3" of mulch over the planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the trunk.

Pests: Plants are relatively pest resistant if cultural preferences are met. Drought stress may cause yellow leaves and defoliation. Aphids and resulting "honeydew", a sooty mold fungus, are sometimes present.

Contact the SC Urban and Community Forestry Council at www.scurbanforestry.org for membership and additional information.

Tree selected from the *South Carolina Urban Tree Species Guide: Choosing the Right Tree for the Right Place*.

*Soil ph is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance www.clemson.edu/extension/. Click on "local offices".

Author and Photographer: Ellen Vincent, Clemson University Reviewers: Elizabeth Gilland, SC Forestry Commission & Kathryn Basha, AICP, Land Use Planner.



Kalmia Gardens, Hartsville SC