

Tree of Interest
Yellow Poplar (Tulip Poplar)
Liriodendron tulipifera

Form- Long straight trunk, with a narrow conical crown.

Description- Leaves are 3-6 inches long and wide resembling a cat's face. 4 lobed nearly square at the base. Shiny green above, paler underside, turning yellow in fall. Grows 80-120' tall and 2-3' in diameter. Bark is silvery grey with shallow furrows when young. Bark becomes brownish yellow with deepening and widening ridges as the tree gets older. Black branch bark ridge is very noticeable above limbs. Flowers resemble tulips or lilies, 1-2" wide and long, green petals with orange base.



Figure 1 Taken by Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org



Habitat- Moist well drained soils, especially valleys and slopes often in pure stands.

Pests and Disease Problems- Resistant. Aphids leave heavy deposits of honeydew on lower leaves, branches, and anything underneath the tree. A sooty mold will grow on the deposits giving the tree a blackish look. Aphid infection is usually non-lethal.

Notes- Tulip Poplar is the tallest hardwood tree in North America and has been reported to have been seen to have grown to 9' wide and 200' tall. Known as "Canoewood" in parts of Tennessee, this tree was prized by all in the state. Especially prized by the Cherokee tribes for making canoes and for containers since the wood contributes no additional flavors to food. Yellow Poplar is the State Tree of Tennessee.

