

featured tree Cynthia Orlando, Public Affairs Specialist

The tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), named for its flowers and leaves that resemble tulips, is an eye-catching ornamental shade tree that produces yellow foliage in the fall. Although commonly called tulip poplar, it's actually part of the Magnolia family. It features very unique, bright green leaves that resemble a tulip shape, and 2-3" long green and orange flowers, also shaped like a tulip.

Tulip trees make great shade trees, growing tall and fairly quickly. When planting, make sure you pick a location that

can accommodate a tree of this size. They can grow 80-100' tall, and prefer full or part-sun. This tree blooms in May and June, though it may require 15 years or more before its first flowers appear. Although it can have problems with aphids and scale, it's fairly disease and pest-resistant. Fall foliage color is a brilliant yellow.



Photos by Cynthia Orlando, ODF



Tulip trees are lovely, and also fairly pest-resistant. (Leaves, left)

