

## PLANTING GUIDE

*Liriodendron tulipifera* L.

**Common Name:**  
tulip tree  
tulip poplar

**Release Name:** Union Germplasm

**Accession Number:** 9055584

### Description:

Tulip-tree is a large deciduous, native tree of 80-120 feet at maturity. It has a dark gray bark, which becomes thick and deeply furrowed. The alternate, long-petioled, deciduous leaves are of usual squarish shape, with 2-3 short pointed paired lobes on each side. Buds covered by the two coherent stipules which are also conspicuous on the growing shoot and envelope each successive leaf. The large showy cup-shaped flowers resembling tulips are borne singly at the end of new growth in the spring. They have six greenish and orange petals, many long stamens, and many narrow pistils on a long axes. The cone-like fruit is composed of many closely overlapping nutlets with long narrow wings, two or one seeded, which shed from the axis in autumn. Petals six, in two rows, making a campanulate corolla. Anthers linear, opening outward. Pistils flat and squamelliform, narrow, imbricated and cohering in an elongated cone, dry, falling away whole, like a samara or key, indehiscent, 1-2 seeded in the small cavity at the base. Leaves are very smooth, with two lateral lobes near the base, and two at the apex, which appears as if cut off abruptly by a broad shallow notch; petals five cm. long, greenish yellow marked with orange; cone of fruit 7.5 cm. long.



### Purpose:

Union Germplasm tulip-tree is an excellent species for use as woodland revegetation, timber production, landscape and riparian areas.

### Source:

Union Germplasm tulip-tree was selected out of a planting of one hundred and fifty (150) specimens of tulip-tree from a collection made in Union County, Illinois.

**Site Preparation:**

Prepare site by plowing and disking if equipment can be used or chemical application to kill existing vegetation. Minimum soil preparation should consist of scalping sod off or spot spraying an area at least two feet square.

**Date of Planting:**

Early spring, as soon as possible after plants have been received.

**Planting Method:**

Plants may be planted by hand or with a tree planter. Soaking roots in water an hour or so just prior to planting usually increases survival. If planted in rows where equipment can be used, allow enough room to mow or cultivate for weed control. If not recommended in the Technical Guide, a spacing of 15 to 20 feet in a single row should be used for timber production and riparian areas.

**Management:**

Weed control is necessary for good establishment and uniform growth. Control weeds the first years by cultivation if equipment can be used. Selective approved herbicides provide good weed control after establishment year; follow the instruction on the label. Protect from 2,4-D type sprays, fire, grazing and trampling by livestock. Plastic netting, irritants or similar protective devices should be used to prevent deer and rodent damage the first five years.

4/24/00

**References:**

Flora of Missouri; p. 671; Steyermark, J. A.; Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, 1968.  
A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs; pp. 203, 318; Peterson, R. T. and McKenny, M. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Mass., 1968.  
Gray's Manual of Botany; p. 676; Fernald, M. L.; American Book Company; Eighth Edition; Harvard University, 1950.  
Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs; p. 252; Rehder, Alfred, The Macmillan Company; Second Edition; Harvard University, 1940.  
Seeds of Woody Plants in the United States; Agriculture Handbook No. 450; p. 510; Schopmeyer, C. S.; Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 1974.

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