



Liriodendron tulipifera (Tuliptree)

Height 80' to 100'

Spread 30' to 50'

Growth rate Medium

Bloom Color Green; Yellow and Fragrant

Bloom Time Spring

Environment

Suitable soil is fertile, moist and well-drained. The PH preference is an acidic (less than 6.8) soil. Light requirements: full sun to part shade. Salt tolerance: poor. Drought tolerance: moderate

Description

This deciduous tree is probably best planted as a specimen. The distinctive cup shaped flowers are approximately 1.5" across and 2.5" in length and really do resemble tulips. A native to North America, it is the state tree of Tennessee and Indiana and will grow in zones 5 through 9A.

Culture Notes

Drought conditions in summer can cause premature defoliation of interior leaves, especially on newly planted trees. In extended dry weather in summer even mature trees may lose some foliage. This tree is considered allergy free and causes little or no allergy problems.

Pests and Diseases

The tree can be attacked by cankers, causing branches to dieback, keep trees healthy and prune out infected branches. Verticillium wilt can also be a problem, causing wilting and death of leaves on infected branches. Sooty mold should be controlled by preventing the buildup of insect populations.

Maintain adequate mulch area

Clear all turf away from beneath the branches and mulch to the drip line, especially on young trees to reduce competition with turf and weeds. This will allow roots to become well established and keep plants healthier. Apply a thinner layer of mulch directly over the root ball but keep it away from the trunk. This allows rainwater, irrigation and air to easily enter the root ball and keeps the trunk dry. Placing mulch against the trunk and applying too thick a layer above the root ball can kill the tree.

Tree establishment Specifications

Choose good quality trees for planting and locate the tree properly, taking into account the ultimate size, since the tree looks best if it is not pruned to control size.

The most common cause of young tree failure is planting too deep. In most instances, the point where the top most roots in the root ball originate from the trunk should be located just above the soil surface.

Trees with good, strong structure need no pruning at planting, except to remove broken twigs. Do not remove branches to compensate for root loss, research has shown that this can be detrimental to establishment.