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## Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs

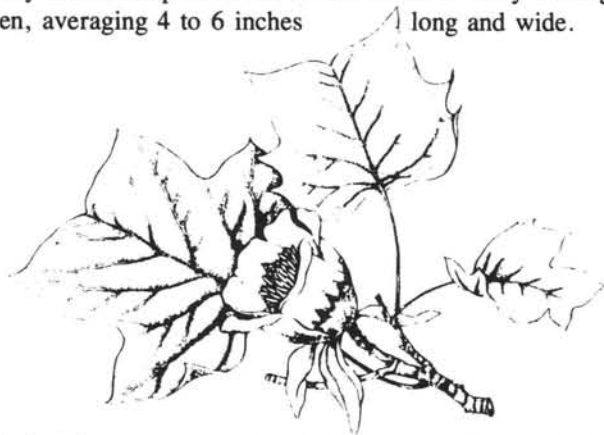
by Fred Opperman

This month's selection is kind of a rare tree for it showed up less than 50 times on the survey list done by Green & Bachtell in the December issue.

Liriodendron tulipifera — Tulip Tree, Yellow Poplar or Tulip Poplar are it's common names.

Bark: Grayish, with furrows at maturity that shows a whitish color within.

Leaves: This is really the distinguishing feature of this tree, for there is no other tree with similar leaves. Alternate, simple; blades divided into four broad lobes, the upper two lobes usually with a conspicuous notch between them. They are bright green, averaging 4 to 6 inches long and wide.



Buds: Flattened, up to 1 inch long, resembling duckbills.

Flowers: Usually about 2 inches long, cup shaped, with 6 yellow-green petals with an orange base surrounding a cone shaped cluster of pistils. Flowers in mid May around here.



Twigs: Smooth, reddish-brown; leaf scars alternate, nearly spherical, with several bundle traces, with stiple scars encircling the twig.

Wood: Soft and durable and is used for lumber, veneer cores to which other wood is glued to.

The Tulip Tree is quite a stately tree with a very columnar trunk. The tree can grow to 100 feet with a trunk diameter of 4 feet. The top is oblong or pyramidal in shape.

Availability is rather sparse in our local area. There isn't much demand, so they aren't grown by too many people.