

Liriodendron tulipifera 'Fastigiatum'

Columnar tulip tree



Liriodendron tulipifera 'Fastigiatum' (columnar tulip tree) is a narrow pyramidal American selection by the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University, Boston, USA. In the US, the tree is also known by its synonym *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Arnold'. The Latin word 'fastigiatum' literally means 'having parallel, upright branches' and that is exactly how it grows when it is young. Its offshoots grow vertically and compete with the bough. In this stage, the tree grows very narrow and upright. When it is older, the offshoots drop down making the tree wider, up to about 6 metres wide.

Apart from the way it grows, this cultivar is similar to the main species in all other aspects. Its variable, quadrifoliate, tulip-shaped leaves are bright green with a blue-green underside. They turn a lovely golden yellow in autumn. The bark is light grey and has net-like furrows. The twigs are red-brown to grey-brown, with lenticels. *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Fastigiatum' does bloom much later and a lot less plentifully than the main species. The tulip-shaped flowers are yellow-green with a yellow-orange interior.

Due to the risk of branches breaking, *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Fastigiatum' should be planted in an area sheltered from wind. The tree prefers moist and fertile soil with a lot of space to root. It has excellent embedding due to its deep taproot. The other roots are fleshy, so the columnar tulip tree will not push up pavement. Because of this quality and its narrow crown shape, the columnar tulip tree can be used not only in parks and gardens, but also on streets, avenues and squares.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: columnar | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 10 - 15 m | **Width:** 3 - 6 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral (6.1 - 7.5)

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: tulip-shaped, standing | **Flower colour:** orange, yellow-green | **Flowering period:** June - July | **Leaf colour:** bright green | **Leaves:** deciduous, laciniate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** golden yellow | **Fruits:** discrete, winged, nut, cones | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** pale grey | **Bark:** furrowed | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** bare, with lenticels | **Root system:** deep, extensive, fleshy roots, tap root