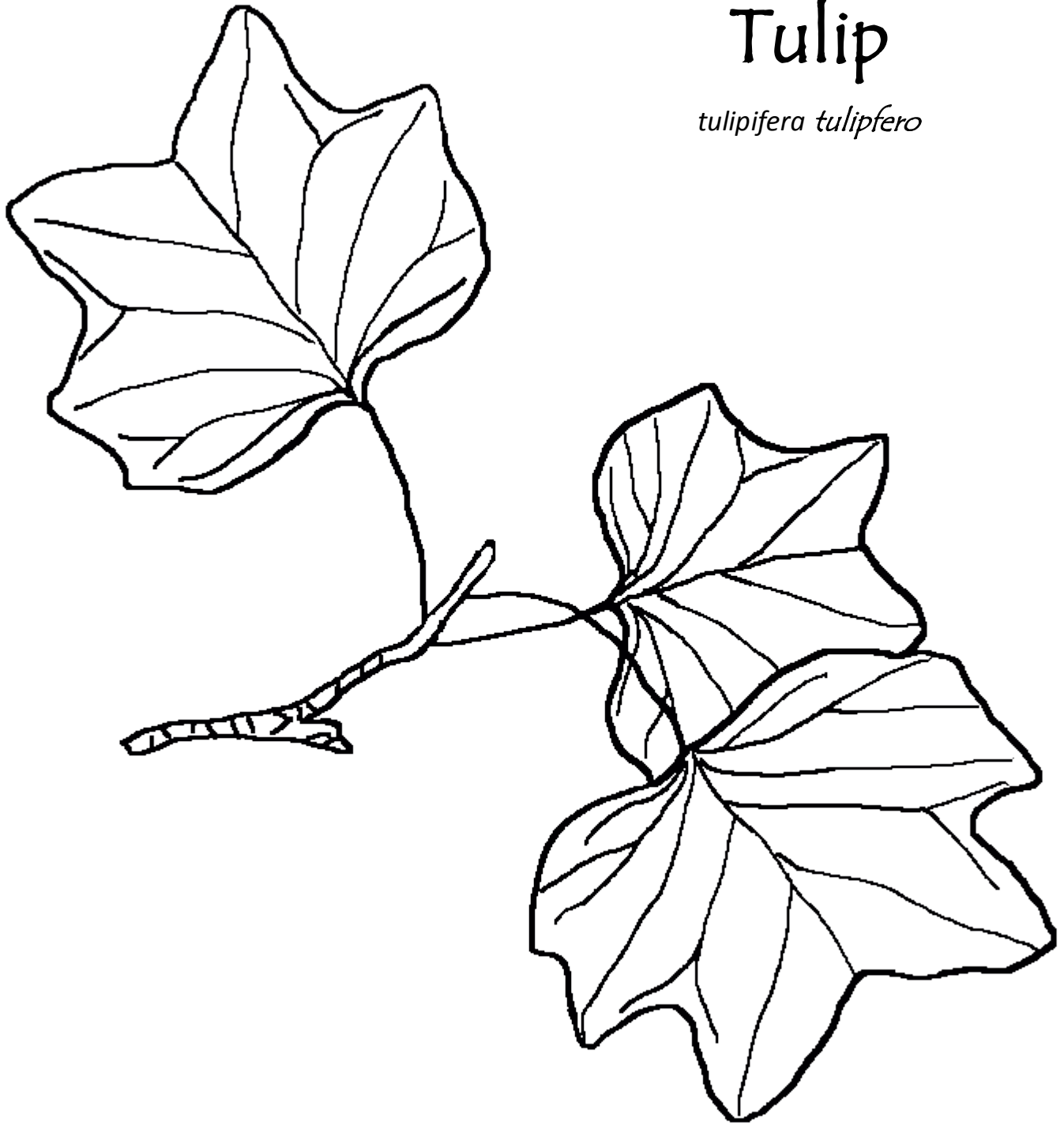


Tulip

tulipifera tulipifera



State tree of INDIANA, KENTUCKY, TENNESSEE

Not a poplar, and certainly not a tulip, the tulip poplar is actually a member of the magnolia family. Tulip poplar grows through most of the eastern states, but it is rare or absent in the extreme north. It prefers moist locations along streams or in deep cove forests of the Appalachian Mountains. In such areas it can be very tall and form an important component of mixed deciduous forests. They are relatively fast growing trees, often with tall straight trunks, branched only at the top. They possess a distinctive gray furrowed bark. Trees begin producing flowers and fruits when 15 to 20 years old. The flowers are the size and shape of a tulip flower, greenish-yellow with an orange splotch near the base of each petal. The flowers tend to be produced on high branches, so flowers are most often seen when they have fallen to the ground. This is a valuable hardwood tree and its wood is used in interior finishes, furniture, general construction, and plywood. Tulip poplar is also widely grown as an ornamental. Look for tall straight trunk with vertically-furrowed bark; light green deeply lobed leaves; flower like a green tulip; cone-like seed cluster which breaks into winged seeds.