



cucumber magnolia

Magnolia acuminata

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

The cucumber magnolia is also known as the cucumber tree. This deciduous tree may grow to a height of 75 feet and a trunk diameter of three feet. Its crown is rounded or pyramid-shaped. The bark is gray or brown with shallow furrows. The silver-white buds are hairy, up to one inch long and with one bud scale. The simple leaves are arranged alternately along the stem. Each leaf is elliptical in shape, pointed at the tip and rounded at the base. The yellow-green leaf may be 10 inches long and about five inches wide. It is smooth on the upper surface and pale and sometimes hairy on the lower surface. The green-yellow flowers, about three inches long, have six, long petals. The oblong fruits are red with several seeds.

BEHAVIORS

The cucumber magnolia may be found in the southern tip of Illinois. It grows in rich woods. Flowering occurs from April through May. Fruits ripen from August through October. The wood of this tree is used for interiors, for making cabinets, for flooring and for making wooden housewares. Deer eat the twigs. The young fruits look like cucumbers, giving rise to the common name.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: southern tip

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
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