

Magnolia acuminata

[Synonyms : *Kobus acuminata*, *Magnolia acuminata* var. *alabamensis*, *Magnolia acuminata* var. *aurea*, *Magnolia acuminata* var. *cordata*, *Magnolia acuminata* var. *ludoviciana*, *Magnolia acuminata* var. *ozarkensis*, *Magnolia acuminata* var. *subcordata*, *Magnolia cordata*, *Magnolia virginiana* var. *acuminata*, *Tulipastrum acuminata*, *Tulipastrum acuminatum*, *Tulipastrum acuminatum* var. *aureum*, *Tulipastrum acuminatum* var. *flavum*, *Tulipastrum acuminatum* var. *ludovicianum*, *Tulipastrum acuminatum* var. *ozarkense*, *Tulipastrum americanum*, *Tulipastrum americanum* var. *subcordatum*, *Tulipastrum cordatum*]

CUCUMBER TREE is a deciduous tree. Native to south-eastern North America it has small, delicately scented, greenish-yellow flowers with many stamens.

It is also known as Black lin, Black linn, Blue magnolia, Cowcumber, Cucumber, Cucmber magnolia, Cucumberwood, Elkwood, Magnolia, *Magnolia končistolistá* (Slovak), Mountain magnolia, Pointed-leaved magnolia, *Šáholan zašpičatělý* (Czech), Wahoo, Wauhoo, Yellow cucumbertree, Yellow-flower magnolia, Yellow lin, Yellow linn, and Yellow poplar.

Warning – some authorities note that bark and leaves may cause skin irritation and the wood may induce bronchitis.

Acuminata is derived from Latin *acumen* (sharp point) meaning ‘tapering to a long narrow pointed tip’ with reference to the leaf shape.

North American Cherokee Indians have used the durable, yellowish-brown wood for construction and making furniture. The wood is also soft and lightweight and they used it for their canoes as well. In addition the Cherokees eventually felled the trees for wood pulp ie. paper.

One or two North American tribes viewed the tree as a source of medicine. The Iroquois have turned to it for the treatment of venereal disease, and they and the Cherokee have also used it to ease toothache. Authorities note that the Cherokee have also prescribed it for treating diarrhoea, indigestion, stomach upsets and sinus problems.

The seeds are popular with rodents and birds.

Today this wood is used for panelling, flooring and cabinetwork and is also made into crates. Medicinally, herbalists used the root bark to treat malaria and rheumatism.