

## Liquidambar styraciflua

### (Sweetgum, American Sweetgum)

Sweetgum is a tall, deciduous tree native to parts of the eastern United States, Mexico, and Central America. It has glossy, star-shaped leaves that change color in fall. Some trees have corky projections on their branches. It is susceptible to surface rooting, so plant trees several meters from curbs and streets. Its fruits are spiny and painful to step on. It grows easily from seed, which also provide food for wildlife. It adapts to many different environments, but does poorly in shallow, dry soil and alkaline soils.



Plant Image

#### Landscape Information

**French Name:** Liquidambar, Styrax d'Amérique, Copalme d'Amérique

**Pronunciation:** ick-wid-AM-bar sty-rass-ih-FLOO-uh

**Plant Type:** Tree

**Origin:** Eastern United States, Mexico, Central America

**Heat Zones:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

**Hardiness Zones:** 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

**Uses:** Specimen, Shade, Wildlife, Street, Pollution Tolerant / Urban, Reclamation

#### Size/Shape

**Growth Rate:** Moderate

**Tree Shape:** Pyramidal, oval

**Canopy Symmetry:** Symmetrical

**Canopy Density:** Medium

**Canopy Texture:** Coarse

**Height at Maturity:** 8 to 15 m, 15 to 23 m

**Spread at Maturity:** 8 to 10 meters

**Time to Ultimate Height:** More than 50 Years

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Flower Image

## Botanical Description

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### Foliage

**Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate

**Leaf Venation:** Palmate

**Leaf Persistence:** Deciduous

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Blade:** 10 - 20

**Leaf Shape:** Star

**Leaf Margins:** Serrate

**Leaf Textures:** Glossy, Medium

**Leaf Scent:** Pleasant

**Color(growing season):** Green

**Color(changing season):** Yellow, Orange, Red, Purple

### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** False

**Flower Size Range:** 0 - 1.5

**Flower Type:** Raceme

**Flower Sexuality:** Monoecious (Bisexual)

**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance

**Flower Color:** Green, Yellow

**Seasons:** Spring

### Trunk

**Trunk Has Crownshaft:** False

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Single Trunk

**Trunk Esthetic Values:** Not Showy

### Fruit

**Fruit Type:** Capsule

**Fruit Showiness:** True

**Fruit Size Range:** 3 - 7

**Fruit Colors:** Brown

**Seasons:** Spring

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© Photo by Monika Fabian

Leaf Image

### Horticulture Management

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#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** Yes

**Heat Tolerant:** No

**Drought Tolerant:** No

**Salt Tolerance:** Moderate

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Clay, Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral

**Water Requirements:** Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Full, Part

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#### Management

**Invasive Potential:** No

**Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases:** No

**Pruning Requirement:** Little needed, to develop a strong structure

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** Yes

**Surface Rooting:** Yes

**Life Span:** More than 50

**Diseases:** Leaf Spots, Canker, Dieback

**Edible Parts:** None

**Pests:** Caterpillars, Scales, Leaf Miner

**Plant Propagations:** Seed, Cutting

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## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image