



Liquidambar styraciflua



Height	25 - 30 (40) m, fast growing
Width	15-20m
Crown	pyramidal, later broad ovoid, half-open crown, capricious growing
Bark and branches	dark grey, deeply grooved, corky wings on branches and twigs
Leaf	palmate lobed, 5-lobed, dark green, 8 - 16 cm long
Autumn colour	yellow, orange, red, purple
Flowers	yellowish-green, unremarkable, April/May
Fruits	round, spiky fruit capsule on a long stalk, approx. 3 - 3.5 cm in length
Spines/thorns	None
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	fertile loamy soil
Soil moisture	suitable for wet soil, withstand short flood, withstand long flood
Paving	tolerates paving
Winter hardiness zone	5b (-26,0 to -23,4 °C)
Wind resistance	moderate
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6)
Application	avenues and broad streets
Shape	clearstem tree, feathered tree, multi-stem treem
Origin	eastern North America

In its natural habitat it grows to 40 m in height but when cultivated it seldom grows taller than 25 - 30 m. The crown grows in a narrow pyramidal manner at first with an ascending, vertical trunk. When the tree is older the branches grow out wider so that the crown becomes ovoid. The grey trunk has deep grooves. Young twigs are yellowish-green and turn reddish-brown. Older branches develop thick grey corky wings that sometimes fall off. The leaves are 5-lobed (sometimes 7-lobed) and the leaf edge is serrated. They are 8 - 16 cm long and 10 - 20 cm wide. The intense autumn colours are varied: wine-red with yellow, orange and violet and all kinds of shades. When the tree is planted on a humid site the leaves turn more violet. The fruit capsules appear after the unremarkable flowering and they remain hanging on the tree until deep into winter. Is not resistant to long-lasting dry periods. Because the trunk is almost dead straight up to the top of the crown, the sweet gum is eminently useful as an avenue tree.