

# *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Andrew Hewson'

## American sweetgum 'Andrew Hewson', sweet gum 'Andrew Hewson'



*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Andrew Hewson' (American sweet gum 'Andrew Hewson', sweet gum 'Andrew Hewson', synonym *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Andrew Henson') is a selection which, in terms of growth habit, foliage and branches, shares a lot of similarities with the species. The cultivar arose before 1990 but its origin and the explanation for its name remain unknown. Sweet gum 'Andrew Hewson' is a fast-growing and strong tree but with an ultimate height of between fifteen and twenty metres remains slightly smaller than the species. Juvenile specimens display a narrow pyramidal habit with an upright main trunk but as the selection matures, the tree tends to sag somewhat and the crown becomes semi-open and broadly egg-shaped, between eight and twelve metres wide.

Sweet gum 'Andrew Hewson' has a more elegant appearance than the species which is attributable to the larger, more deeply cut leaf. In the spring the bronze lobed foliage emerges and changes colour to dark green in summer. This cultivar also has the reliable and spectacular array of orange-red to red-violet autumn colours which can be admired early in the season. The moister the site of the tree, the more intense the red-purple of the autumnal colour. At the end of April or early May the tree bears unremarkable yellow-green flower spikes. Just like *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Andrew Hewson' has wonderful corky fissures on the branches and twigs.

*Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Andrew Hewson' is ideal for use in broader streets or avenues. But the cultivar also puts on a stunning display of intense autumn colour in large gardens or parks. Just like all sweet gums, 'Andrew Hewson' is also rather sensitive to wind, and a site that is too exposed may result in breaking branches. Plant *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Andrew Hewson' for best growth and autumnal colouring in a protected, sunny site on reasonably nutrient-rich to nutrient-rich, acid to neutral soil.

### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, feathered trees, shade trees

### USE

**Location:** street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, in containers, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** wide egg-shaped, narrow pyramidal | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 8 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 10B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Extreme environments:** tolerates air pollution

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** spikes, heads, discrete | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, dark green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, scented with contusion, dissected, crenate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** orange-red, scarlet, red-violet | **Fruits:** few fruits, small, capsule, spiny nut | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** furrowed | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** corky | **Root system:** deep, extensive, fleshy roots, central root