

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Aurea'



Liquidambar styraciflua 'Aurea' (synonym *Liquidambar styraciflua* Variegata Group, synonym *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Variegata') is one of the cultivars classified under the *Liquidambar styraciflua* Variegata Group. In 2004, the yearbook of the International Dendrological Association proposed that *Liquidambar styraciflua* Variegata Group will now be used as the collective name for the group of variegated *Liquidambar* selections, hitherto known as 'Aurea', 'Aureum' and 'Variegata'. They are slow-growing trees but can ultimately attain a height of up to fifteen metres. The sweet gums classified under the *Liquidambar styraciflua* Variegata Group have an upright main trunk with a narrowly egg-shaped crown around four metres wide.

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Aurea' bears inconspicuous yellow-green flower spikes at the end of April or early May. This selection does not produce many fruits but its small, spiky brown-green nuts are very striking. The recognisable, palmate, 5-lobed leaf emerges yellowish with pink, colourful sections, with white-yellow mottling and speckles, providing a marbled look. For a sweet gum, the autumn colouring is rather subdued with yellowish to pale pink-red tints. *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Aurea' has a grey-brown, notched bark and the shoots and branches do not feature the corky fissures typical of the species.

Cultivar 'Aurea' is ideal for use as a street or avenue tree. But also in parks and gardens the tree lights up an area with its light-coloured leaf and is certainly of added value in the environment. The selection - owing to the possibility of sunburn on the variegated foliage - should not be placed in the direct glare of the sun. The tree does not tolerate wind either as it has fragile, easily breakable branches. *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Aurea' enjoys a light and sheltered 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, park, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: narrow egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 7 - 15 m | **Width:** 4 - 5 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 10B

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant 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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: spikes, heads, discrete | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** variegated yellow, buds yellow, buds pink, Variegated leaf | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, scented with confusion, lacinate, crenate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** pale yellow, red, pink | **Fruits:** small, capsule, spiny nut | **Fruit colour:** brown-green | **Bark colour:** grey-brown | **Bark:** furrowed | **Twig colour:** brown-green | **Twigs:** bare, with lenticels | **Root system:** deep, extensive, fleshy roots, central root

