

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Lane Roberts'

American sweetgum 'Lane Roberts', sweet gum 'Lane Roberts'



Liquidambar styraciflua 'Lane Roberts' (American sweet gum 'Lane Roberts', Sweet gum 'Lane Roberts') originates from a batch of *Liquidambar styraciflua* seedlings which were sold by Hillier Nurseries of Romsey, United Kingdom to Lane Roberts of Hertfordshire, England. The tree was made available in the trade in 1971 by this same tree nursery and is regarded by the English as one of the best cultivars of *Liquidambar styraciflua*. Fast growing, 'Lane Roberts' has an upright main trunk extending right up to the top, attains a height of fifteen to twenty metres and has a pyramidal crown between eight and twelve metres wide.

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Lane Roberts' was selected on account of its striking, reliable autumn colouring, in a wonderful array of orange-red, scarlet-red and red-violet shades. The lowest two leaf lobes of the palmate, 5-lobed, bright green emergent leaf face downward. Following an inconspicuous, yellow-green blossom in the spring, sweet gum 'Lane Roberts' bears a lot of fruits in the autumn. These are small, brown, spiky nutlets which are particularly striking. The trunk of *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Lane Roberts' is smoother than that of the other selections and on young shoots displays no corkiness which appears as the branches mature.

The upright habit and suitability for paved areas make sweet gum 'Lane Roberts' a good option for use in wide streets, avenues and on squares. But also in parks and large gardens - chiefly on account of the fantastic autumn colouring - the selection certainly makes a statement. The tree likes a sunny site on acid to neutral, moisture-retentive to moist, not too heavy soil. *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Lane Roberts' has the same sensitivity to wind as the species and other cultivars and so an exposed site may result in breaking branches.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, shade trees

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: 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

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: spikes, discrete | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** bright green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, lacinate, crenate, dentate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** orange-red, scarlet, red-violet | **Fruits:** striking, rich fruit yield, small, capsule, spiny nut | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** brown-green | **Twigs:** bare, corky | **Root system:** deep, extensive, fleshy roots, central root

