

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Parasol'

Sweetgum Parasol



Liquidambar styraciflua 'Parasol' (Sweet gum Parasol) was found in the Dutch town of Bussum and released around 1985 by De Dorschkamp: the former Dutch National Institute for Forestry and Landscape. The parasol sweet gum remains a bit smaller than the species, with a height of between six and eight metres and a broadly flattened oval crown form up to six metres wide.

The dense crown of *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Parasol' is created chiefly by the many forking branches the tree develops. A lot of cork is formed on the branches and twigs, whilst the bark of the trunk is smooth. The palmate, lobed leaf emerges bright green, retains its colour into the summer and only changes yellow-orange to brown-red in late autumn. At the end of April or early May the tree bears unremarkable yellow-green flower spikes. Hardly any fruits are produced after flowering.

Low-grafted, *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Parasol' forms a small multi-stem but by grafting the selection on a stem of *Liquidambar styraciflua* a parasol-shaped crown is formed. These growth forms make the parasol sweet gum especially good for use in parks, green open spaces and (small) gardens. *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Parasol' requires a bright, sheltered site on account of its fragile, easily breakable branches.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, shade trees

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: flattened spherical, wide oval | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 6 - 8 m | **Width:** 3 - 6 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, discrete | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** bright green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, polished, serrate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange, red-brown | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** corky, finely branched | **Root system:** deep, extensive, fleshy roots, central root

