

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Slender Silhouette'

'Slender Silhouette' Sweetgum



Liquidambar styraciflua 'Slender Silhouette' ('Slender Silhouette' sweet gum) is a recent discovery by nurseryman Don Shadow of Shadow Nursery in Tennessee, USA. The new selection was discovered in around 1990 as a very narrow seedling near a lake and named 'Shadow Columnar Form', later the tree was given the name 'Slender Silhouette'. On account of its extremely straight upward branches, sweet gum 'Slender Silhouette' has a very slender columnar crown, a mere two metres wide and fifteen to twenty metres tall.

The foliage of *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Slender Silhouette' is palmately-lobed and glossy fresh green as it emerges and in summer it becomes rather darker green. In cooler climates, the beautiful yellow-orange, orange-red and red-violet autumn colours appear relatively late in the autumn but the foliage stays on the tree for quite a long time and, therefore, its magnificent autumn colours can be enjoyed for longer too. At the end of April or early May sweet gum 'Slender Silhouette' bears unremarkable yellow-green flower spikes. No fruits have as yet been observed after flowering. Cultivar 'Slender Silhouette' has a smooth, grey bark and on the glabrous, red-brown twigs and branches, the corky fissures, characteristic of *Liquidambar*, are lacking.

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Slender Silhouette' is a nice addition to the columnar tree range. Despite the fact it does not form corky fissures, the narrow habit with late but beautiful autumn colour is a real asset for parks, streets and avenues. But sweet gum 'Slender Silhouette' makes an excellent choice for smaller gardens too. *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Slender Silhouette' is grafted on *Liquidambar styraciflua* and requires the same growing sites: sunny to partial shade and protected from the wind due to the potential risk of breaking branches.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: columnar | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 1 - 2 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, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: spikes, heads, discrete | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, polished, lacinate, serrate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** yellow-orange, orange-red, red-violet | **Fruits:** no fruit | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** bare, vertical branches | **Root system:** deep, extensive, fleshy roots, central root

