

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Stared'

'Stared' Sweetgum



Liquidambar styraciflua 'Stared' ('Stared' sweet gum, synonym *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Stella') is a relatively slow-growing tree, usually up to a height of fifteen metres although - in optimum conditions - a height of twenty metres can also sometimes be reached. Sweet gum 'Stared' forms a narrowly oval crown which later becomes narrowly vase-shaped, up to seven metres wide. The origin of this cultivar is difficult to determine.

Cultivar 'Stared' stands out on account of what is particularly striking blossom for a *Liquidambar*. At the end of April or early May the upright, dark pink flower spikes appear in abundance. The characteristic palmate, 5-7 lobed and very deeply cut leaf emerges red and changes to dark green in summer with red petioles. In the autumn the tree fruits very profusely. The small, brown capsules are beautiful set amongst the early red autumnal foliage. The tree's red-brown branches and twigs have corky fissures, although less pronounced than in the species and some other cultivars, such as *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Palo Alto'. *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Stared' has a grey, smooth bark which later becomes rougher.

Sweet gum 'Stared' is a terrific choice for parks and gardens owing to its wonderful blossom. But this variety will also be useful for avenues and squares on account of its suitability for paved areas. Be aware that the tree does not grow as vigorously as other selections of *Liquidambar styraciflua*. Plant *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Stared' for the best growth and blossom in a bright and sheltered location on moisture-retentive to moist, not too heavy soil.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, shade trees

USE

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

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: narrow oval, narrow vase-shaped | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 5 - 7 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 10B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay | **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, striking, standing | **Flower colour:** dark pink | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** buds red, dark green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, dissected, crenate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** red, scarlet | **Fruits:** rich fruit yield, small, capsule, capsules, spiny nut | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** corky | **Root system:** deep, extensive, fleshy roots, central root

