

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Worplesdon'
'Worplesdon' sweetgum



Liquidambar styraciflua 'Worplesdon' ('Worplesdon' sweetgum) was selected from seeds from the United States, by the Merrist Wood Agricultural College in Worplesdon, England. The tree is stronger and better withstands the wet, windy climates in north-western Europe than the main species. 'Worplesdon' grows up to 15 metres high and has a semi-open, pyramidal crown.

In May, the cultivar blossoms with discrete, single yellow-green spikes. The palmate, beautifully cut leaves bud green and turn a gorgeous shade of orange, orange-red and red-violet hues in the autumn. Its autumn colour is consistent - one of the reasons for the tree's popularity. In the autumn, *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon' bears small, brown-green capsules that stay on the tree for a long time. In its youth, the trunk is smooth, and furrows appear later on.

The 'Worplesdon' sweetgum can better withstand salty winds than the main species, but does then develop a compact crown with so-called short shoot. The tree prefers loamy, nutrient-rich soil, in a sunny environment for the best autumn colours. The tree can tolerate pavement, as well as wind, drought, heat, air pollution and brief floods. Branch breakage can also occur in the canpoy of 'Worplesdon'. Thinning the tree once every 5 to 7 years is recommended; a crown that is too dense will lead to dead wood. Grafting the 'Worplesdon' can lead to delayed incompatibility; the species should always stand on its own roots.

SEASONAL COLOURS



jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, trees for climbing, shade trees | **Topiary on stem**: block, roof-trained, espalier, pleached | **Topiary**: espalier, pleached

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, bioswale | **Pavement**: none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts**: Climate planting, urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: pyramidal | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 12 - 15 m | **Width**: 8 - 12 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 5B - 10B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind, slightly tolerant to coastal wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Extreme environments**: tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat, tolerant to short-term flooding

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: spikes, heads, discrete, singular | **Flower colour**: yellow-green | **Flowering period**: April - May | **Leaf colour**: green | **Leaves**: deciduous, palmate, laciniate | **Autumn colour**: orange, red-violet | **Fruits**: small, capsule | **Fruit colour**: brown-green | **Bark colour**: grey | **Bark**: smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour**: red-brown | **Twigs**: bare | **Root system**: deep, shallow, highly branched, fleshy roots, tap root, on own root

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