

Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

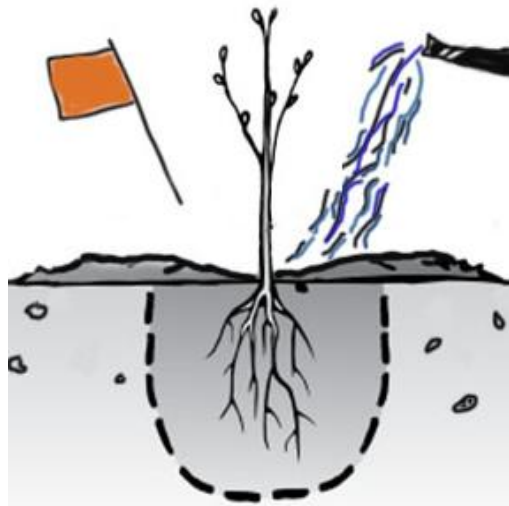
- I am a medium size native tree reaching up to 80 feet tall.
- I am beautiful in the fall – my pointed, 5-lobbed (star-shaped) glossy leaves turn yellow and deep red!
- I have a fruit that looks like a dangling spiny ball.
- I grow very fast, tall, and straight, but I'm picky – I prefer well drained, sunny spots.
- I provide food and nesting sites for birds and mammals in your garden.



Sources: <https://mgnv.org/plants/> and <https://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/factsheets.cfm>

How to plant me

- Plant me right away, and be sure my roots stay moist and cool until planted.
- Dig a hole slightly deeper and wider than my roots.
- Make sure my main root is straight down, the top of my roots is even with the soil surface, and no roots are curled or bent.
- Gently pack soil around me with your foot.
- Mark me with a flag and/or stake.
- Water my roots thoroughly (there is no magic amount, but the top 6 inches of soil should feel moist).
- Add 2 inches of mulch, but not piled around my trunk! Don't make a volcano out of the mulch!



How to care for me

- Keep me marked with a flag or stake and mow carefully near me!
- If needed, protect me from pests like deer and rabbits. Add a wire, clear plastic, or other type of tube for protection.
- Do not fertilize me!
- **Give me one inch of water every week!**
- I will need more water if we have a hot or dry spell.

Source: <https://www.sites.ext.vt.edu/resources/4h/4hpubs/pdfs/390-070.pdf>