

# *Liquidambar*



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# Liquidambar is NOT a Craft Beer!!





Liquidambar is not  
MY FRIEND!



# Liquidambar is:

**A beautiful, deciduous tree that thrives in San Diego County!**





Common Name:

# Sweetgum

**Family: Hamamelidaceae**

(Witch Hazel Family)

**Genus: Liquidambar**

(lih-kwid-Am-bar)

**Species: styraciflua**

(sty-rak-ee-Floo-uh)





# *Liquidambar styraciflua*

- Once established can grow 2-3 feet per year and grows up to 50-70 feet in cultivation and 150 feet in the wild.
- Trunk 2-3 feet in diameter
- May live to 400 years



# Flower & Fruit



**Flower**



**Mature Fruit and Seeds**



**Immature Fruit**

- Fruit is hard, dry, and round, 1–1.5 inches in diameter, composed of numerous (40-60) capsules.
- Each capsule contains one to two small seeds.
- The fallen, spiky fruits can be unpleasant to walk on and the trees have been banned in some areas for this reason. In winter they can leave a lawn lumpy.



# *Liquidambar styraciflua*

## Optimal Growing Conditions

- Prefer full sun



- Slightly acidic soil



- Chlorotic in more alkaline soils

- Tolerant of lawn water or limited summer water

- Best as a street tree as its roots can lift lawns





# Invertebrate Pests



**Fall Webworm**

- Fruit tree leaf roller
- Tussock moth
- Redhumped caterpillar
- Calico scale
- Giant whitefly



**Black Vine Weevil Adult  
Feeding**



**Black Vine Weevil Droppings**

# Common Pathogens

## **Bacterial Leaf Scorch** Vectored by various insects



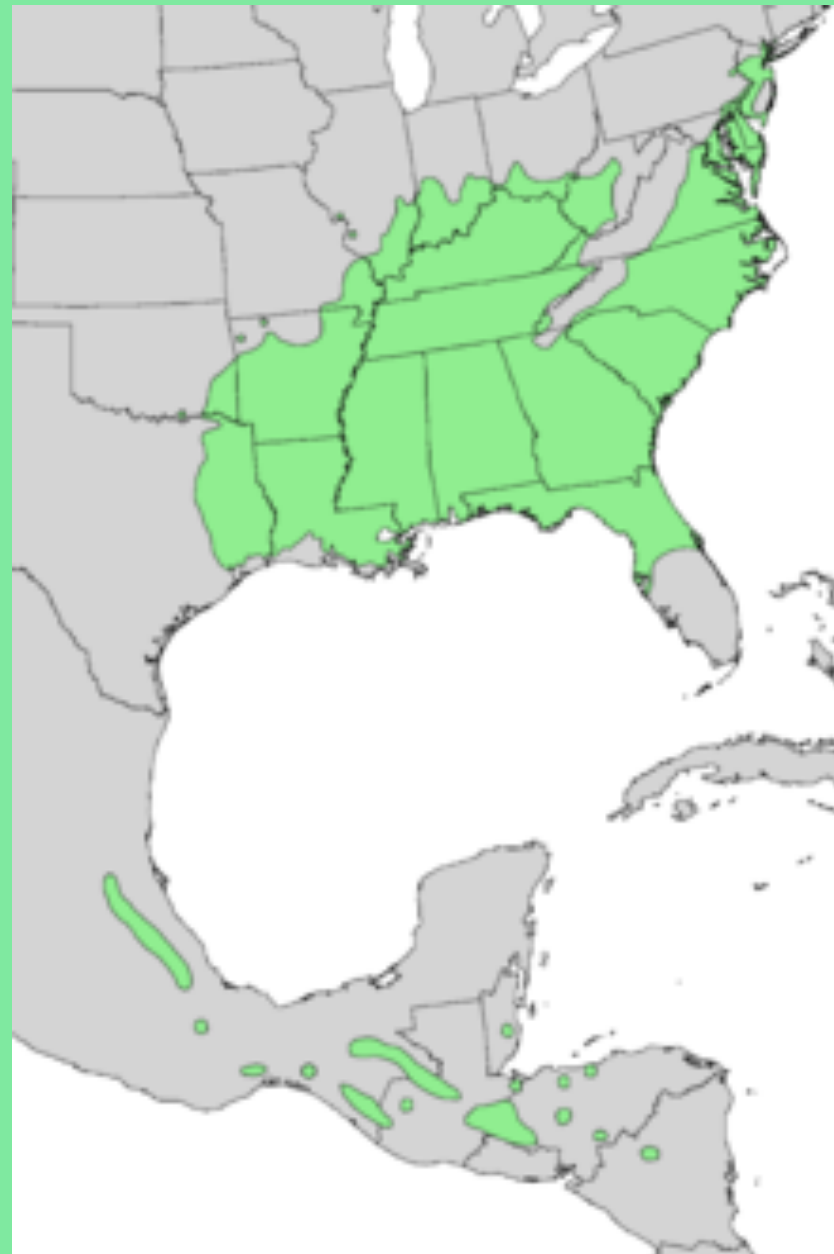
## **Cankor Diseases**

- Dead areas in branches trunks or roots
- Most common disease pathogen is fungi



# *Liquidambar styraciflua*

One of the most popular hardwoods of the  
Southeastern United States



# Sweetgum Uses

**Erosion Control:** Fast growing so a good choice for wind block

**Wildlife:** Seeds are eaten by squirrels, birds and chipmunks.

**Timber:** Lumber, veneer, furniture, papers, fuel and pulpwood

**Recreation and Beautification:** Specimen, shade and street tree

**Crafts:** Seedpods are used for various projects by crafters

**Medicinal:** Balm made from sap used to treat skin problems and wounds





# Varieties

Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar*)

- *Palo Alto* turns bright red to orange-red.
- *Burgundy* provides deep, reddish-purple leaves.
- *Festival* will give you a range of autumnal hues including peach, rose, orange, yellow and red



## ***Liquidambar styraciflua* ‘Rotundiloba’**

Leaves rounded rather than pointed

No seedpods



Fall colors-yellow, red, burgundy  
and purple







**Thank You!**