

Tree Profile: Liquidambar - Sweetgum

General information: Liquidambar is a genus of five species, styrachiflua also called 'Sweetgum' is most commonly used as bonsai. A deciduous tree whose leaves turn on at autumn spectacular colours in yellow, various shades of orange, purple and many different shades of red. A very attractive bonsai tree whether it has green leaves, colored leaves or no leaves!

However, it can have the tendency of branch weakening as well as die back.

Lighting and Temperature: Full sun or partial shade throughout the year but will need protection from hot as well as freezing winds. Frost protection required below -10°C.

Watering: Daily throughout the growing season, easing off in winter. Keep the soil moist but well drained.

Feeding: Recommended from spring to early autumn, every two weeks during the growing season, slowing down the feeding schedule in summer. Do not spray the leaves!

Pruning and wiring: Liquidambar do not react well to pruning during dormancy, it can cause dieback of branches and has a poor wound healing. Try to limit pruning to the growing season when the tree is active. Special attention to pruning back the apical or top growth to avoid the loss or weakening of the lower branches. The scars will heal quicker if it is pruned during the growing season.

Like with Trident Maples, it reacts well to leaf pruning - shorten new shoots on established branches in late spring to two sets of leaves. Remove large leaves throughout the growing season.

Wiring can be done any time during growth, but take care as old woody branches are brittle!

Propagation: From seed in autumn, softwood cuttings in summer, use heal cuttings for better results. Air layering may be done in late spring and early summer.

Repotting: In spring, before buds open. Roots grow very quickly, so annual repotting may be necessary for young trees; older trees tend to need repotting every 2-3 years. Position the roots during repotting!

Pests and diseases: Generally pest and disease free, but webworms, caterpillars, borers and scale may cause problems in some areas.

Styles: Formal and Informal Upright, Slanting, Twin Trunk, Broom and Clump.



Orient Bonsai Nursery



11 Mahoneys Road
Reservoir VIC 3073
Phone: 03 9460 3059
Email: orient_bonsai@hotmail.com

Products

Bonsai starters
Mature bonsai
Pots
Figurines
Tools

Services

Bonsai classes
Repotting and trimming
Wedding gifts

www.orientbonsai.com.au

