

# Sweetgum

Botanical Name: *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Pronunciation: lih-kwid-AM-bar sty-rah-SIH-floo-ah



## **Fun Facts:**

- Leaves look like stars
- Spiny 'gumballs' contains seeds
- Wood is used for flooring, furniture, paper pulp, veneers and baskets
- Food plant for various Lepidoptera caterpillars, such as the gypsy moth
- Pioneers once peeled the bark and scraped the resin-like solid to produce chewing gum
- In fall, the leaves turn red, orange, yellow, and purple
- Leaves are unpleasantly aromatic if crushed or bruised
- Also known as the alligatorwood