

10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

TREE INFO CARD

Sweetgum

(Liquidambar styraciflua)

Get to know your tree:

The sweetgum is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, star-shaped leaves with 5-7 lobes. The leaves are highly variable, with some strongly resembling maple leaves. Fall leaf color can be yellow, orange, red, or maroon, with multiple colors often present on a single tree. Twigs often have corky wings. Flowers are clustered in small greenish-yellow or reddish balls. Fruits are woody balls consisting of pointed capsules, hang on long stalks, and often persist through winter. Bark is ridged and is a dull grey-brown in color.

Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter sweetgum provides approximately \$11.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO₂ levels by 4 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger sweetgums, visit www.treebenefits.com.



Fun facts about your tree:

Gum can be obtained from this species by peeling the bark and scraping off the resinlike solid underneath. This gum was historically used both medicinally and for chewing gum.

The sweetgum is an important lumber tree and is second only to oaks among hardwood species grown for lumber production.



Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Sweetgums grow to heights of 60-75 feet, with a spread of around 40-50 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels. This species does best in moist, slightly acidic soils. It is sensitive to pollution.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit www.arborday.org/trees/planting. And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

Care for your tree:

This species is somewhat sensitive to drought, so may require frequent watering. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



www.a2gov.org/10ktrees