

Botanical Name: Liquidambar styraciflua 'Rotundiloba'

Common Name: Rotundiloba sweetgum

Type of Plant: dicot: tree Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an erect, single-trunked tree (sometimes develops a second leader part-way up canopy); develops strongly pyramidal form when young; white corky bark develops on older branches; lateral branches short, spread horiz.

Height 20-40' (60') Spread 1/2-2/3 Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full or partial sun; develops better fall color in full sun

Soil a deep moist loam preferred-tolerates wet soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 1-9, 14-24); thrives in warm humid areas

Morphology:

Leaves palmate, alternate - whorled, 5-7 round lobes, 3-7" wide, margins entire petioles 4-6" long; bright green, turning gold, orange or to purple-red in fall

Flowers small inconspicuous flowers in spring

Fruit none present; one of the diagnostic features of this variety

Propagation: grafting

Usage: prized for fall color and branch structure; suitable for lawn or street tree; for groves or screens; shallow surface roots and suckering is a problem. Replacement for Liquidambar species without fruit drop

Landscape Care:

Watering regular; tolerates lawn watering-can survive drought after established

Fertilizing balanced, in spring; add iron to correct chlorosis

Pruning remove lowest branches or thin as needed; avoid heading back

Pests/Diseases relatively free; resistant to oak root fungus

Special Conditions

Origin: East U.S. Family: Hamamelidaceae