



Design Standards for Urban Infrastructure

Plant Species for Urban Landscape Projects in Canberra

Botanical Name: *Liquidambar styraciflua* (LQs)

Common Name: American sweet gum

Species Description

- Deciduous
- Pyramidal shaped tree
- Corky grey-brown bark
- Star-shaped leaves with variable autumn foliage colours including burgundy-red, yellow and orange
- Flowers in spring followed by spiky 'gumball' fruit capsules, which may be a problem in high use areas

Height and width

15 to 20 metres tall by 12 metres wide

Species origin

Eastern North America through to temperate areas of Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras

Landscape use

- Available Soil Volume required: $\geq 45\text{m}^3$
- Suitable for use as a street tree and in parks for summer shade and autumn foliage display

Use considerations

- Suitable for Canberra's climate, and can withstand wind and pollution
- High frost tolerance to minus 10 degrees Celsius and moderate drought tolerance once established
- Hardy in a range of Canberra soils, however performs better on deep moist soils and is not suitable for alkaline soils
- Long lived
- Moderate growth rate
- Low flammability
- Relatively pest free but can be affected by armoured scale
- Formative pruning may be required to create a single leader and canopy lifting may be needed near paths and roads
- Will coppice under some circumstances and has a shallow, vigorous root system
- Produces nectar and pollen which attract bees

Examples in Canberra

Franklin and Bougainville Streets, Manuka and Knibbs Street, Turner

Availability

Commercially available

