



(photo from Lake County Nursery website)



(photo from US National Arboretum)

## **American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)**

Origin: Species native to Southern US

Mature Size: Large (>45' tall)

Description: American sweetgum is native to the Southern U.S., but certain varieties are hardy in Michigan. It has a slow to moderate growth rate and tolerates a wide range of soil conditions. It is upright to oval in youth, becoming somewhat rounded at maturity. Fall color develops late and is variable, but is often an attractive yellow, red, or purple. Mature sweetgums produce spiny seed balls which, when abundant, can result in litter under the tree. The following cultivars are hardy in Michigan: 'Grandmaster', 'Lane Roberts', 'Moraine', and 'Worplesdon'. The cultivars that are reported to be nearly seedless ('Cherokee', 'Happidaze', and 'Rotundiloba') have been susceptible to winter injury in Michigan.