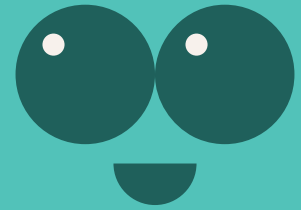


# Sweet Gum / Chinese Sweet Gum



Scientific name : *Liquidambar formosana*



English name : Sweet Gum / Chinese Sweet Gum

Family : Hamamelidaceae

Native Distribution : native species

Origin : Central China, East China, South China, and West China. It is also distributed in Laos, Vietnam, and South Korea.

Growth habits : Evergreen trees

Leaf : Palmate with 3 lobes, heart-shaped leaf base, gradually pointed leaf tip, serrated leaf margin, thin leathery texture. The leaf surface is green, turning orange-red in autumn before falling. It is a common variety in Hong Kong known for its vibrant red leaves.

Flower : Monoecious

Fruit : About the size of a 5-yuan coin, with many small thorns on the surface.

Tree characteristics : It can grow up to 30 meters in height. The main trunk has gray-brown bark, often cracked in a square shape or peeling off. The main trunk can reach a diameter of up to 1 meter.

Flowering period : March to June

Fruit period : July to September

Ecology : The spherical fruit cluster of the aromatic maple is a famous Chinese medicinal herb called 'Beautiful Sweetgum Fruit', about the size of a 5-yuan coin, with many small thorns on the surface. After falling off, the fruit cluster reveals indentations, making for a very interesting appearance. Beautiful Sweetgum Fruit can dispel wind, activate circulation, promote urination, and open up the meridians, as its name suggests its meridian-opening effects. Additionally, its resin can also be used in traditional Chinese medicine for dispelling wind, promoting blood circulation, detoxification, pain relief, stopping bleeding, and promoting tissue regeneration. The wood of the aromatic maple is slightly hard in texture and can be used to make furniture and wooden boxes.