



STAR-SHAPED
GLOSSY LEAVES

SWEETGUM

LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA

The five-lobed, star-shaped leaves are a distinguishing feature of this tree. The dark gray bark of mature trees has diamond-shaped furrows. The leaves change to red, yellow or purple in the fall. Sweetgums are one of the first trees to establish in disturbed areas in Charlotte.



TYPE:
Deciduous



SIZE:
80 feet high
60 feet wide



SUN:
Full sun



FLOWERS:
Insignificant; male and female flowers on same trees



USDA ZONES:
5-9



ID TIPS:
Five-lobed, star-shaped glossy green leaves. The spiny burr-like seed balls (called gum balls) are from female flowers.



WILDLIFE VALUE:
Seeds are eaten by squirrels, chipmunks and a variety of birds (eastern goldfinches, sparrows, mourning doves, northern bobwhite quail and wild turkey).



INTERESTING FACT:
Leaves have a lemony scent when crushed.

