

'Slender Silhouette' Sweetgum

Liquidambar styraciflua



Slender Silhouette on the farm

Slender Silhouette Sweetgum is a captivating cultivar of the American Sweetgum tree, prized for its distinctive growth habit and stunning seasonal transformations. It is native to the southeastern United States, and can be found in northwestern and central Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. This tree is celebrated for its tall, narrow, and columnar form, which sets it apart from its broader-growing relatives. During the growing season, its foliage is a deep green, serving as an elegant backdrop. However, the real spectacle comes in the fall when its star-shaped leaves transition into a breathtaking array of orange, red, and purple hues, making it a standout feature in any landscape.

Well-suited for a variety of soil types, including clay, loam, and sand, Slender Silhouette Sweetgum thrives in a range of lighting conditions, from full sun to partial shade. With its slender profile, it is an ideal choice for areas with limited space, such as urban gardens or narrow yards.

Pruning for the Slender Silhouette Sweetgum is typically minimal, primarily aimed at removing any dead or damaged branches. Ensuring adequate watering during its establishment phase helps promote healthy growth. One consideration is that the tree produces distinctive spiky fruit capsules, often called "gumballs," which can be somewhat messy and may require regular cleanup. The Slender Silhouette Sweetgum's unique growth habit and stunning fall foliage make it a sought-after choice for those looking to add height and beauty to their outdoor spaces.



Slender Silhouette in the fall



Slender Silhouette leaves



Slender Silhouette fruit capsules

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Slender Silhouette in a landscape

Common Names:

Sweetgum

Native Origin:

Eastern half of U.S., south of New England into Central America

Environment:

Soil: moist but well-drained

Salt: moderate

Exposure: full sun

Description:

Hardy Range: 5 - 9

Mature Height: 5 - 60'

Mature Spread: 5 - 6'

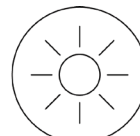
Growth Rate: fast

Form: columnar

Persistence: deciduous

Ornamental Characteristics:

The sweet gum tree boasts a sizable stature, featuring a lengthy, cylindrical trunk, a pyramidal crown, and branches and twigs adorned with corky wings. Its leaves are arranged alternately, displaying a simple, star-shaped design characterized by 5 (occasionally 7) distinct lobes that span a range of 3 to 6 inches in width. These lobes are deeply incised, sporting toothed margins and prominently pointed tips, emitting a faint aromatic scent when bruised.



Full Sun



Deciduous



Florida Native