



Botany Q2 Benchmark: Herbarium Project

By: Darian Scudder



My Plant: "American Sweetgum Tree"



Classification of the American Sweetgum Tree:



Classification:

Kingdom: Magnoliopsida

Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Hamamelidales

Family: Hamamelidaceae

Genus: Liquidambar

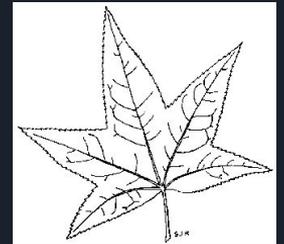
Species: *Styracifolium* L.

Classification Facts Link:

Sweetgum : *Liquidambar styraciflua*,

web.fscj.edu/David.Byres/sweetgum/sweetgum.htm

<http://web.fscj.edu/David.Byres/sweetgum/sweetgum.htm>



Structure of what a Sweet Gum Tree looks like:



Proof of my collectional tree "HUNT" for Sweet Gum Tree



Info about American Sweetgum Tree leaves:

- “American sweetgum is deciduous tree that belongs to the witch hazel family. It can be found in the eastern parts of North America and tropical parts Mexico and Central America. American sweetgum grows on moist well-drained soil in areas that provide plenty of sun. People cultivate American sweetgum as a source of high-quality wood and in ornamental purposes.”
- “American sweetgum can reach 60 to 100 feet in height tall. Trunk can reach around 3 feet in diameter. Younger sweetgum trees have narrow, pyramidal crown. Older sweet gum trees have a round or oval crowns.”
- “ American sweetgum start to produce fruit at the age of 15 to 20 years”
- “ American sweetgum can survive up to 400 years in the wild.”

Source:

“American sweetgum Facts.” *Math*,
www.softschools.com/facts/plants/american_sweetgum_facts/1278/



More Info about American Sweetgum Tree leaves:

- “American sweetgum Trees has a moderate rapid growth rate, putting on height at rate of 1 to 4 feet a year for the first 5 to 10 years and 12 to 15 inches per year thereafter”.
- “ American Sweetgum Trees prefer moist, slightly acidic soil but is adaptable to many soil types, including clay soil, dry or wet soil that is neutral to somewhat alkaline. These trees need plenty of room to grow, both above and below ground. Situate where sweet gum’s mature height cannot interfere with overhead wires or other obstructions and at least 8 to 10 feet away from the sidewalks and curbs, as the tree has an aggressive root system.”
- “ American Sweetgums prefer the spring rather than the fall for the best of survival. American Sweetgum should avoid being planted deeply into the ground; the root flare-- the point where the roots end and the trunk begins-- American Sweetgums should be lightly planted higher than soil level to prevent root rotting.”

Source:

“Facts on the Sweet Gum Tree.” *Home Guides* | *SF Gate*, homeguides.sfgate.com/sweet-gum-tree-27329.html.
<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/sweet-gum-tree-27329.html>



Common Name of the American Sweetgum:



“ Common name for American Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) is commonly referred to sweet gum because of the brownish yellow sap it produces when the bark is cut. The name “Liquidamber” is from the Latin *liquidus*, meaning fluid or liquid and the Arabic *amber*, referring to amber, both being reference to the sap. The “sweetgum” sap is also referred to as American *styrax* (hence the species name, *styraciflua*) and some use it as a chewing gum.”



Source:

Liquidambar styraciflua,

www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/forest/htmls/trees/L-styraciflua.html





Common “Uses” for American Sweetgums



- The wood from American Sweetgums are hard and durable and is used for furniture, barrels wooden bowls, cabinets and interior finishing. In addition to using the sap as chewing gum, Native Americans and settlers are used the sap to treat a wide variety of ailments (illness) in both humans and domestic animals. Native Americans used the roots and bark to treat skin disorders, disorders, diarrhea, fevers and other ailments (illness) Sweetgum is frequently planted as a ornamental.
- The fruits from American Sweetgums are distinctive, spiny, long-stemmed balls that contain many seeds, most of which do not germinate, Song Birds and squirrels eat sweetgum seeds and the fruits and they are sometimes also used as Christmas decorations.
- “American sweetgum is important source of food for the wild animals. Squirrels, chipmunks, and blue jays.”



“Caution” Uses of American Sweetgums

“ Although Sweetgum trees are often planted as street trees, they have shallow roots that can lift sidewalks and curbs. If you plan to plant sweet gum, keep it at least 10 feet from pavements and foundations to avoid damages. The falling gumballs that are hazard on pavements are another reason to keep them away from sidewalks and driveways.”



How should we take care and use American Sweetgums:



“ Once established, sweetgums need very little care. You don’t need to fertilize them every year, although they appreciate some general purpose fertilizer or compost every few years. The trees are drought tolerant and don’t need to be watered once mature.”

“ Although Sweetgums don't need much direct care, they add quite a bit to your fall landscape maintenance. They drop an abundance of leaves that need raking, and gumballs fall from the tree over a period of months. Because of the hazard they present and the potential to take root, you’ll want to keep them swept up.”



“Sweetgums are considered pioneer trees. These are trees that can become invasive in an area because they take root easily from seeds and grow quickly, often excluding all other plants in the area. It’s best to plant them in maintained areas where you’ll be cleaning up the seed pods.”

Document Proof with all my information:

The screenshot shows a Google Docs interface with the following content:

- Title:** My Plant
- Author:** dscurder18@slabeeber.org
- Date:** 01/18/2018
- Text:** Darian Scudder
- Text:** My Plant:
- Text:** Sweet Gum Tree:
- Image:** A photograph of a large tree with vibrant red and orange autumn leaves against a clear blue sky.
- Caption:** My sweet gum leaves I collected from the outside:

The document is displayed in a browser window with the URL <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Szjdf6PygblpR9svUC5QMSRcWGqIMMekw5-kEgeNarM/edit>. The browser's address bar shows the document is secure. The Google Docs toolbar is visible at the top, and the Windows taskbar is at the bottom.



Citations and Sites:

Sweetgum : Liquidamber styracifolia, web.fscj.edu/David.Byres/sweetgum/sweetgum.htm.
<http://web.fscj.edu/David.Byres/sweetgum/sweetgum.htm>

“American sweetgum Facts.” *Math*
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“Facts on the Sweet Gum Tree.” *Home Guides | SF Gate*,
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<http://homeguides.sfgate.com/sweet-gum-tree-27329.html>

Liquidambar styraciflua,
www.museum.state.il.us/muslink/forest/htmls/trees/L-styraciflua.html

Carroll, Jackie. “What Is A Sweetgum Tree – Information On Caring For Sweetgums.” *Gardening Know How*,
24 June 2016,
www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/sweetgum/sweetgum-tree-info.htm

Thank you for viewing!!!

