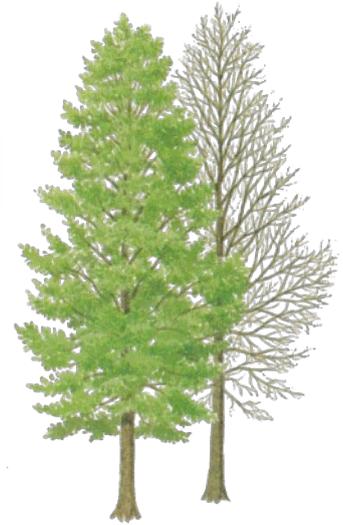




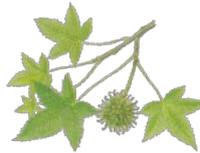
# TREE of the MONTH

July 2015

## SWEET GUM



The flowers (male and female) are small and round. They are green/yellow and appear in late spring.



It has Maple like leaves.

The Sweet Gum in this Arboretum is a Memorial Tree

Liquidambar styraciflua, commonly called :- American sweetgum, sweetgum, sweet gum, sweet-gum (sweet gum in the UK), hazel pine, American-storax, bilsted, red-gum, satin-walnut, star-leaved gum or alligator-wood.

Native to warm temperate areas of eastern North America and tropical montane regions of Mexico and Central America.

The Sweet gum is one of the main valuable forest trees in the southeastern United States, and is a popular ornamental tree in temperate climates.

It is recognizable by the combination of its five-pointed star-shaped leaves and its hard, spiked fruits.

It is currently classified in the plant family Altingiaceae, but was formerly considered a member of the Hamamelidaceae

In autumn its leaves turn every shade from orange through red to purple.

A distinctive feature of the tree is the peculiar appearance of its small branches and twigs. The bark attaches itself to these in plates edgewise instead of laterally, and a piece of the leafless branch with the aid of a little imagination readily takes on a reptilian form; indeed, the tree is sometimes called *Alligator-wood*.

The Sweet Gum is a deciduous hardwood in the genus Liquidambar.

The tree was introduced into Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

This can be a giant tree reaching up to 45m in height, but ours are more modest.

The sweet gum is a viscous sap that dries into a gum.

### A fun project - can you find this Tree here?

Hints :

Look at the Trees on this Information Board list. Which geographic zone is this Tree in? This Tree is labelled.

Can't find it? Then....

Google OVRA Guildford and follow the Tree of the Month details on our website to find a photo of the tree in this Arboretum.

We hope you enjoy looking and find other things in the hunt. Let us know if you do.