

Liquidambar formosana Monticola Group

Chinese sweet gum Monticola Group, Formosan gum Monticola Group



Liquidambar formosana Monticola Group (Chinese sweet gum Monticola Group, Formosan gum Monticola Group) was found in China in 1908 by English botanist Ernest Wilson. The selection was originally named *Liquidambar formosana* var. *monticola*, however this is now no longer an official variety and no longer a correct name because the differences with the species *Liquidambar formosana* fall within the natural variation. *Liquidambar formosana* Monticola Group, unlike *Liquidambar formosana*, is perfectly hardy and is, therefore, given a distinct designation. The area where the rare species was collected explains its good winter hardiness: the damp forests in the north east of the Chinese province of Szechuan.

At the end of April or early May the Chinese sweet gum Monticola Group bears yellow-green flowers. After flowering the conspicuous brown and green capsules appear on the tree. The palmate, 3-lobed and matt-gloss leaf emerges bronze before changing to dark green in summer and in the autumn it surprises with a beautiful range of autumn colours: from orange-red, scarlet to deep red-violet. *Liquidambar formosana* Monticola Group shares many similarities with the species, only the leaf and twigs are hairless, unlike those of *Liquidambar formosana*.

The Chinese sweet gum Monticola Group is ideal for use in avenues and central reservations. But also in parks and large gardens the selection puts on a spectacular and beautiful autumn display. Despite being fully hardy it is nevertheless important to give young plants protection in winter. As it does not tolerate wind, *Liquidambar formosana* Monticola Group, therefore, requires a sheltered, sunny site on moist to wet ground that is rich in nutrients.

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees

USE

Location: avenue, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none, open

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide pyramidal | **Crown structure:** dense | **Height:** 16 - 25 m | **Width:** 10 - 15 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 6B - 9B

ASPECTS

Wind: intolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, heavy clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil, all soils | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flower colour: yellow-green | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, dark green | **Leaves:** deciduous, palmate, matt polished, lacinate, serrate, lobate | **Autumn colour:** orange-red, scarlet, red-violet | **Fruits:** striking, capsule | **Fruit colour:** brown, green | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth | **Twig colour:** red-brown, olive green | **Twigs:** bare, with lenticels | **Root system:** deep, shallow, extensive, highly branched, clinging aerial roots

