

# 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

