Brotzman's Corky Sweet Gum

Liquidambar styraciflua 'Brotzman #1'

Height: 35 feet

Spread: 20 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Brotz Corky, American Sweet Gum

Description:

An upright, narrowly pyramidal tree, featuring thick, corky stems and bark that adds tremendous interest; somewhat particular about growing conditions; fruit is spiny and can be somewhat messy, use where this will not be a problem



Brotzman's Corky Sweet Gum
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Brotzman's Corky Sweet Gum has forest green deciduous foliage on a tree with a pyramidal habit of growth. The lobed palmate leaves turn outstanding shades of rose, red and burgundy in the fall. However, the fruit can be messy in the landscape and may require occasional clean-up. The furrowed gray bark is extremely showy and adds significant winter interest.



Brotzman's Corky Sweet Gum foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Brotzman's Corky Sweet Gum is a deciduous tree with a strong central leader and a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a high maintenance tree that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy

Brotzman's Corky Sweet Gum is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade

Planting & Growing

Brotzman's Corky Sweet Gum will grow to be about 35 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 80 years or more.

This tree should only be grown in full sunlight. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species.



Brotzman's Corky Sweet Gum bark
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder