(Education University of Illinois cont'd.)

The courses offered at the University of Illinois are for the most part, taught by faculty members who are doing active research in the area that they teach. Thus, the students are kept up to date on the latest techniques, procedures, and plant material.

Recently, the University of Illinois was rated 16th on the list of top schools for your educational dollar (Money College Guide 1990). The rating was based on the amount of tuition versus what the school has to offer. No other school in the midwest was rated higher than Illinois.

In addition to the undergraduate program, we offer advanced degrees in turfgrass science. Our graduate students have taken important positions in industry or have become turfgrass educators in several states such as Michigan, Massachusetts, Ohio, Virginia, and Oklahoma.

In summary, the University of Illinois is an excellent place to study turfgrass management. If either you or someone you know is interested in the University of Illinois, please give us a call. I can be reached at 217/333-7848. My address is Horticulture Department, 1201 S. Dorner Drive, Urbana, IL 61801.

## Leaves, Limbs, Needles & Boughs

by Fred D. Opperman

This month's selection is a tree that you see a lot of further south in Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri, etc. But it can and is growing quite well in many locations around the Chicago area. One just has to plant this tree to see its beauty and you will be adding it to your yearly plant list.

Liquidambar styraciflua (lik-wid-am'bar sti-ra-se-floo'a) American Sweetgum.

Leaves: Alternate simple, 4 to 71/2" wide and about as long, 5 to 7 lobed with oblong-triangular, acuminate starshaped, finely serrate lobes. Leaf color is a very beautiful deep glossy green above in summer, changing to rich yellow-purple-red tones in the fall; there is a great variability in fall colors.



Bud: Terminal imbricate, 6 to 8 scaled ovate to conical 1/4 to ½" long, laterals smaller, reddish green brown, sometimes fragrant when crushed.



Size: 60 to 75' in height with a spread of 2/3's to equal the height; can reach 80 to 120' in the wild.

Fruit: Syncarp of dehiscent capsules, (in plain language they are little balls with spines and holes), 1 to 11/2" diameter, persists into winter.

Culture: Transplant in the spring into deep, moist, slightly acid soil and full sun.

Credit: "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants" by Michael A. Dirr.

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