

Plant of the Month, October 2019

## Liquidambar 'Worplesdon' - by Liam McCaughey



October and the leaves are beginning to turn colour in the garden. We have planted to some extent with this in mind, and one of the best in our garden is liquidambar 'Worplesdon'.

This is a cultivar of *Liquidambar styraciflua* which is a North American species. Interestingly, although they are not native in Europe, pollen dating from pre-glacial times has been found in a now abandoned quarry near our house, just north of Moira.

Fortunately for us, this tree likes damp soils, and in addition is stated to be resistant to frosts – a characteristic of trees from eastern North America. Its autumn colours should soon be joined by those of the red oaks planted nearby.

