

# Gummy Gulch



Welcome to Gummy Gulch!

The fairies living here were inspired by their favorite tree—the sweetgum!

You probably have seen the seeds of the sweetgum tree before. They have a spiky seed ball that falls to the ground, and if you step on one barefoot, it can be a real shock. But don't let those spiky gumballs fool you.

The sweetgum has traditional medical properties that can be used to treat dysentery and diarrhea, and the resin from the tree is anti-inflammatory (that means it can help reduce swelling).

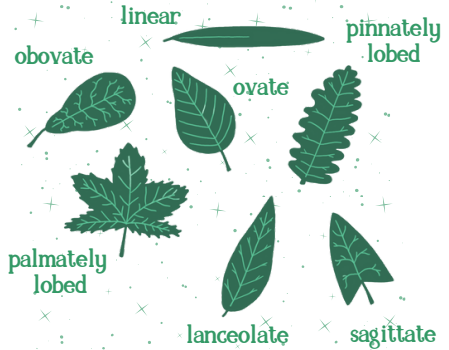
## Learning Leaves

To the untrained eye, tree leaves can all look the same. But comparing leaf shapes and compositions can give you a clue into what type of tree you are looking at.

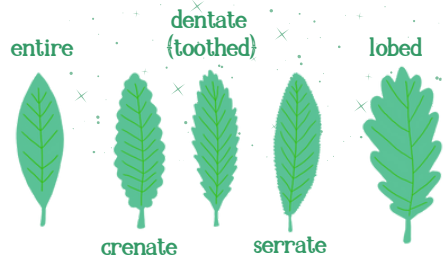
Simple vs. compound leaves



Leaf shapes



Leaf edges

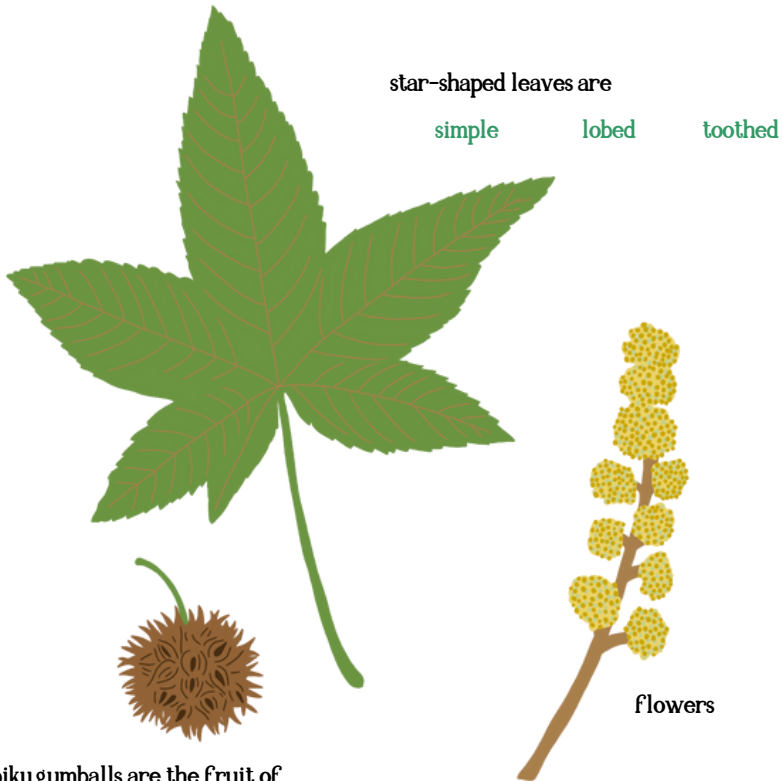


Fairy House Artist: Innes Borstel  
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# Sweetgum

*Liquidambar styraciflua*

A hardwood tree with grayish bark. Has star-shaped simple broadleaves which are aromatic when crushed.



the spiky gumballs are the fruit of  
the sweetgum tree

Can you find the fairies' favorite sweetgum tree? Head to number 3 on the map and look for the star-shaped leaves, and evidence of the fruit around the base of the tree.

