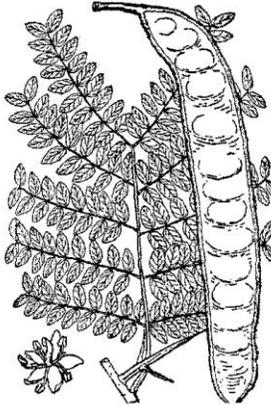


Honeylocust*Gleditsia triacanthos*

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: This has become a very popular street, yard and landscape tree in the midwest and the east because its short trunk and spreading crown gives it a graceful habit and sophisticated silhouette. The fine textured pinnately compound leaves with their small leaflets allow for a light shade that allows other plants including grass to grow underneath. The leaves turn a rich golden brown in the fall. The flowers are inconspicuous but the fruit a large, often twisted, hanging pod to 18 inches long is attractive but can be a nuisance. The very dark black bark with the scaly ridges and silhouette are beautiful in the winter as are the many spines on the bark and branches. The cultivar 'inermis' is thornless.

HABIT AND SIZE: 30-70' high and equally wide with a short trunk and an open spreading crown forming a delicate and sophisticated silhouette.

LANDSCAPE VALUE: Generally excellent for forming an area with light open shade. Has been overused and diseases have proven problematic. Also pods and leaves messy.

LEAVES: Alternately arranged, pinnately or bipinnately compound, 6-8" long, the central axis bears leaflets (rachis) that are hairy all around and grooved. Pinnate leaves with 20-30 oblong-lanceolate leaflets 0.33-1.5" long and 0.2-0.67" wide with margins that have widely spaced (remotely) crenations or serrulations (blunt or sharp teeth pointing forward). Bipinnate leaves with 8-14 pinnae, with 0.33-1" long leaflets that are a glossy bright green. The base of the petiole is swollen.

FLOWERS: Small, short pediceled flowers in male and female racemes. Calyx lobes and petal 3-5, the petals nearly equal and not much longer than the calyx. Stamens 6-10, separate. Pistillate flowers with a short style and a large terminal stigma.

FRUIT: A pod 12-18" long, slightly sickle shaped (falcate), and twisted.

BUD: Terminal buds absent, lateral buds 5 or more, distinct at node, small, scaly or naked.

DISEASES AND INSECTS: In the midwest, web-worm, mites, galls and various cankers have decimated a number of plantings.

HARDINESS AND RANGE: Zones 3-9. Pa. south to Miss., west to Neb. and Tex.

CULTIVARS: The variety 'inermis' is thornless and its cultivars 'Majestic', 'Moraine', 'Shademaster' and 'Skyline' are superior to the species. 'Sunburst' starts with golden yellow new foliage that matures to bright green.