

Honeylocust

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Gleditsia triacanthos

Height: 40' to 80' (50' at age 30)

Width: 40' to 70' (50' at age 30)

Hardiness Zone: 4 to 9

Crown: broadly ovate, open, spreading, fine texture

Foliage: compound, ½ " to 1 ½ " leaflets, yellow in fall, leaves fall early

Flowers: inconspicuous

Fruit: long brown pods, but few on most cultivars

Description: Native on a variety of sites in central and southcentral U.S., it is very thorny, has spreading branches, and usually a short trunk. Bark is gray to black, and separated by fissures into plates. Rapid growth rate and intolerant to shade.

Advantages: Delicate leaflets impart a lacy appearance, provide light shade, and are easily cleaned in the fall. Grass grows well underneath. Suited for plazas, parking lots, and spacious streets. Tolerates urban conditions.

Limitations: This tree was planted extensively for some years, especially where Dutch elm disease was prevalent. There is some concern that diseases and insects, not serious at first, are becoming more common. Susceptible to webworm, borer, plant bugs, pod gall midge, spider mite, leaf spot (can be serious in southern states), cankers, and powdery mildew. *Thyronectria* can be serious in stressful environments. Nevertheless, trees generally are able to withstand injuries.

Site and Culture: Transplants readily. Adaptable to a wide range of soils. Tolerates salt, heat, drought, compaction, and other adverse urban conditions. Prefers full sun.

Cultivars: Many cultivars have been selected mainly for better crown form, and have been propagated as thornless trees without pods. Others were selected for yellow or purplish foliage. Only thornless cultivars should be planted as street trees to prevent injuries to pedestrians.

Notes:

