



BLACK LOCUST *Robinia pseudoacacia* L.



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Black locust is not a native of this state, but is extensively planted. It is abundant in some localities, and is found mostly near dwellings or on abandoned farmlands, where it often becomes naturalized. The locust is a rapid grower, frequently attaining a height of 20 feet in 10 years, but increasing much more slowly thereafter. It reaches a height of about 50 feet and a diameter of 8–20 inches. The branches are small, brittle, occasionally multi-angled, and at first are armed with stipular spines. The top is narrow and oblong. It is one of the last trees to send out foliage in the spring.

The **bark** on old trees is dark brown, deeply furrowed and broken into small scales.

The **leaves** are alternate, once compound, 8–14 inches long, with 7–19 leaflets that are about 2 inches long with an entire margin and a slightly notched tip.





The **flowers** are borne in loose racemes 4–5 inches long. Showy and very fragrant, they appear in June.

The **fruit** is a smooth, flat, dark purplish-brown pod about 3–4 inches long, containing 1–8 bean-like seeds.

The **wood** is heavy close-grained, strong, and very durable when in contact with the soil. It is used for fence posts, firewood and planking for boats. In the past, it was used to make pegs for use with glass insulators.



The buds of the black locust are almost completely hidden.

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 Black Locust Circumference: 205" Height: 80' Crown Spread: 66' Location: Belfast

