



## HONEYLOCUST *Gleditsia triacanthos* L.

**H**oneylocust is not native to Maine, but has been frequently planted in urban areas in the southern and central portions of the state. The trees most commonly planted and those that have escaped cultivation in Maine are a thornless variety, *Gleditsia triacanthos* f. *inermis* (L.) Zabel.

Honeylocust has somewhat pendulous, slender, spreading branches that form an open, broad, flat-topped head. It attains a height of 75 feet and a diameter of 20 inches. Simple or (usually) three-forked spines, 1½–3 inches long or longer, occur on the branches and trunk; but spines are lacking on the commonly planted variety.

The **bark** is divided into long, narrow ridges by deep fissures; and the surface is broken into small scales that are persistent. The **leaves** are alternate, both once and twice compound, 4–8 inches long and have from 18–28 leaflets. The margins of the leaflets are finely blunt-toothed.

The **flowers** are borne in slender clusters 2–2½ inches long. They appear in June when the leaves are about fully-grown. Staminate and pistillate flowers are produced separately on the same tree.

The **fruit** is a shiny, reddish-brown, flattened pod 8 inches or more in length. The pod is curved, with irregular wavy edges, and is often twisted. The walls are thin and tough.

The **twigs** are smooth and distinctly zigzag in shape. Winter buds barely protrude from the leaf scar.

The **wood** is coarse-grained, hard, strong, and very durable in contact with the soil. It is used for firewood and boat decking in Maine. In the past, it was used to manufacture the wooden pegs that glass insulators were screwed onto when glass insulators were used with telegraph, telephone and electrical power lines.

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Honeylocust Circumference: 178" Height: 50'

Crown Spread: 80' Location: Bath

