

Honeylocust

Gleditsia triacanthos

Fabaceae family

Location: This deciduous tree that is native to North America is usually found in the wet land areas which range from southern South Dakota to New Orleans and central Texas and extending as far east as Massachusetts.

Description: Honeylocust usually grow to be around 66-100 feet at full maturity. They have a short life span of an averaged 120 years but with a maximum life span of 150 years. The older trees are pinnately compound leaves while the younger trees have bipinnately compound leaves. The leaflets range from 1.5-2.5 cm in length and are fluorescent green but turn yellow in autumn. The Honeylocust fruit is a flat legume that hits maturity in the early fall. The seeds are dispersed by grazing animals which include cows and horses. This tree commonly has thorns 3-10 cm in length that grows on the branches and form dense clusters. The thorns are green and soft when young, begin to turn red and harden as they age and then they fade to gray and turn brittle when matured.

Usage: The pulp of the seeds can be used to make beer because of the sweet taste. Also, the wood is high quality, durable and polishes well, but since the species is limited, no big industry to harvest this wood is present.

References: wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey_locust plants.usda.gov/plantguide/pdf/pg_gltr

