

Thornless Common Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*)

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Summary:

Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf

Height: 70 feet

Spread: 50 feet

Shape: Oval, spreading

Thornless honeylocust is a large tree that tolerates both wet and dry soils. One should select a cultivar for fruitlessness and pest resistance.

Plant Needs:

Zone: 4 to 9

Light: Partial shade to full sun

Moisture: Wet, moist, to dry

Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay

pH Range: 4.5 to 7.3

Functions:

Suggested uses for this plant include shade, street tree, massing, and specimen plant.

Planting Notes:

Plant improved cultivars with good form, and being thornless, podless, and pest resistant.

Easy to transplant because it withstands a wide range of conditions.

Prefers full sun.

Extremely salt tolerant.

Care:

Spray twice yearly to control webworms.

Problems:

Susceptible to *Thyronectria* canker, mimosa webworms, leaf hoppers, spider mites, and leaf galls. Webworms are the worst problem, occasionally defoliating trees by August.

Alternatives:

Consult garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.

Cultivars of *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*:

`Sunburst' has yellow new foliage which turns bright-green. It is seedless and podless, however, it is susceptible to *Thronectria* canker.

`Shademaster' has ascending branches, dark green leaves and is podless.

`Majestic' has nice dark-green foliage and is podless.

There are many cultivars available with good form, fall color, and pest resistant characteristics.

Comments:

Native honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) trees are best known for their hazardous thorns and long, flat seed pods. Pest resistant, thornless, good form, and podless cultivars are highly recommended.

Lacy foliage gives a loose, open shade ideal for patios and shade loving plants.

In autumn, the small leaflets filter into the grass as they fall, requiring little raking.

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