

North Dakota Tree Selector

Scientific Name: *Gleditsia triacanthos*

Family: Fabaceae (Legume)

Hardiness: Zone 4

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Tree

Growth

Rate: Fast

Mature Height: >45'

Longevity: Long

Power Line: No

Ornamental

Flowers: Inconspicuous

Fruit: Reddish-brown pod

Fall Color: Yellow

Common Honeylocust

Description

A fast-growing medium-to-large sized tree adapted to a wide variety of soils, including alkaline. Very susceptible to winter dieback, but hardier cultivars have become available. The largest tree in North Dakota is 60 feet tall with a canopy spread of 40 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full sun.

Water: Prefers moist, well drained soils.

Soil: Adaptable to many soil types including high pH, salt tolerant and drought conditions.

Comments

The pods contain a sweetish, gummy substance from which the name honeylocust is derived. Most cultivars are podless (seedless), though occasionally bear a few seed pods.

In its native habitat in the central and southern Great Plains, honeylocust is often laden with multi-branched thorns from 3"-6" long. However, a number of thornless varieties are available and are more appropriate for landscape situations. Some varieties are:

Northern Acclaim® - very cold hardy; NDSU release.

Imperial® - rounded crown. May bear a few fruit.

Skyline® - more upright, with an open crown.

Credits: North Dakota Tree Selector Website, Manual of Woody Landscape Plants 6th edition

