

Gleditsia triacanthos

(Honey Locust)



**May
2011**

Gleditsia triacanthos is a deciduous, fast growing tree. It has an open habit, casting only a light shade underneath its canopy. Tolerance of pollution makes it an ideal tree for urban planting.

Thornless varieties such as *Sunburst* and *Inermis* are available though they will produce few, if any, seed pods. *Sunburst* makes a good substitute for *Robinia pseudoacacia Frisia* which can be brittle.

In the past, the pulp for the seed pods has been used to brew beer and the thorns used for nails. There is a small market for Honey Locust furniture as it is a high quality wood which polishes well.

Plant Profile

Name: *Gleditsia triacanthos*

Common Name: Honey Locust

Family: Caesalpiaceae

Height: up to 20m depending on variety

Shape: Medium-large oval shaped, open tree

Demands: Sun - very light shade, well drained soils

Flowers: Inconspicuous green - white flowers

Fruit: Long, flat, slightly twisted seed pods

Bark: Grey with elongated 'plates'. Stems and trunk can have large, branched thorns. Thornless varieties are available

Autumn Colour: Golden Yellow

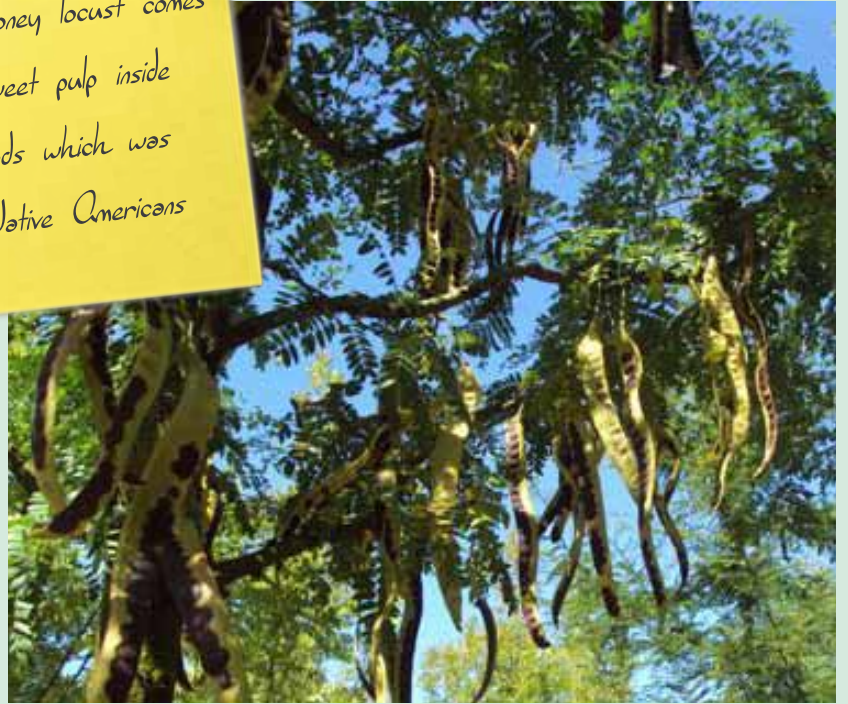


Gleditsia triacanthos 35-40 girth

Deepdale
 The name honey locust comes from the sweet pulp inside the seed pods which was eaten by Native Americans



'Sunburst' 16-18cm Standard



Gleditsia seed pods



Gleditsia 'Inermis' 4.5-5.0m multistem



30-35cm field grown standard



Gleditsia 'Sunburst' multistem

Variety	Flower Colour	Thorns & Seed Pods	Features
triacanthos	Green	Yes	Large tree with loose, open crown
Inermis	Green	No	Large thornless tree with open crown
Sunburst	Bright yellow in Spring, pale green in Summer	No	Smaller variety with yellow foliage in Spring
Skyline	Green	No	Upright tree ideal for street planting.