

## **honeylocust** *Fabaceae* *Gleditsia triacanthos* L. symbol: GLTR **vTree**

**Leaf:** Alternate, pinnately compound, 5 to 8 inches long, with 15 to 30 leaflets or bipinnately compound with 4 to 7 pairs of minor leaflets. Leaflets are 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches long, ovate to elliptical in shape, green to yellow-green.

**Flower:** Small, greenish yellow, displayed on 2 to 3 inch long narrow, hanging clusters, not showy, but very fragrant, appearing in late spring and early summer.

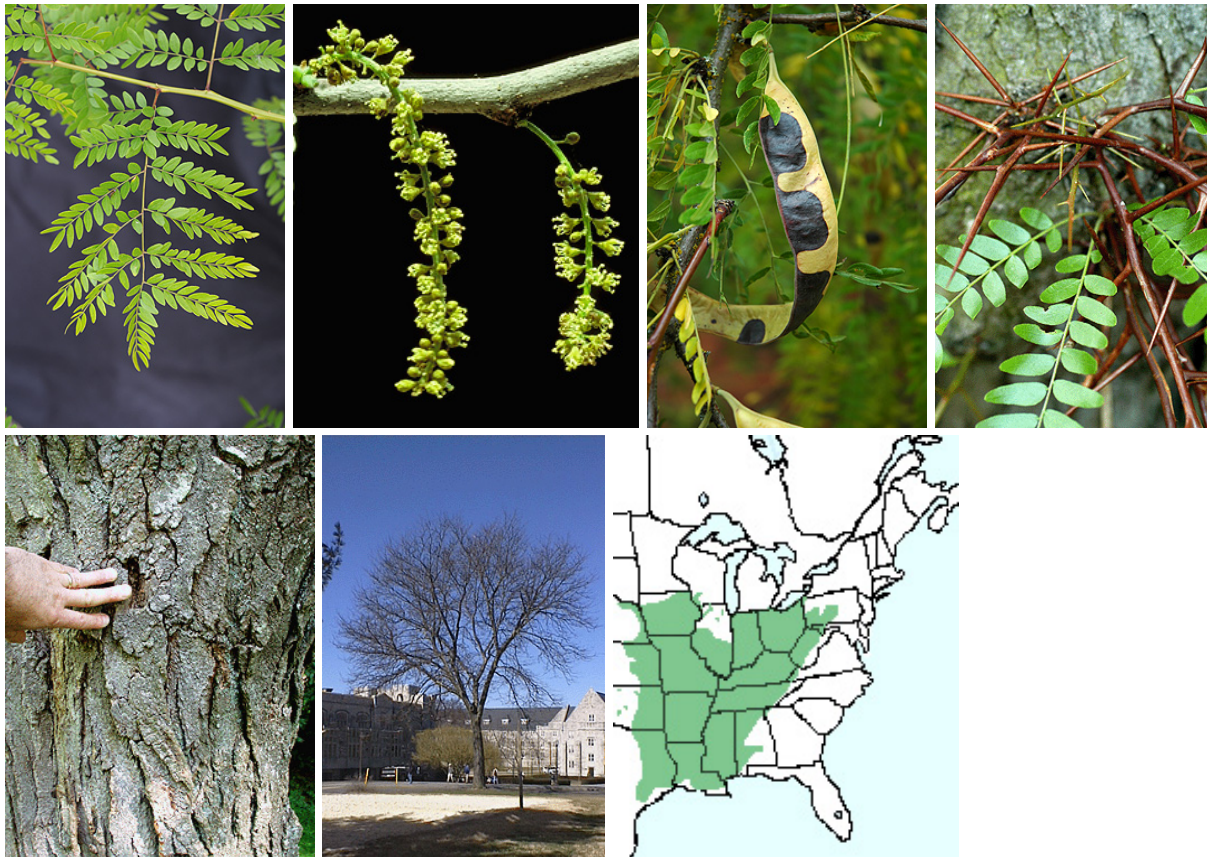
**Fruit:** A very distinctive, 6 to 8 inches long, flattened, red-brown, leathery pod that becomes dry and twisted; pod contains many oval, dark brown, shiny seeds, 1/3 inch long, maturing in late summer and early fall.

**Twig:** May be either stout or slender, prominently zig-zag, red-brown to light brown in color, numerous lenticels and branched thorns. Lateral buds are very small and sunken.

**Bark:** Initially, gray-brown to bronze, and smooth with many horizontal lenticels, later breaking into long, narrow, curling plates. Often displaying clusters of large, branched thorns on trunk.

**Form:** A medium size tree with a typically short bole and an airy, spreading crown, reaches up to 80 feet tall.

**Looks like:** [waterlocust](#) - [mimosa](#) - [black locust](#)



### **Additional Range Information:**

*Gleditsia triacanthos* is native to North America. Range may be expanded by planting. [See states reporting honeylocust.](#)

### **External Links:**

[USDAFS Silvics of North America](#)  
[USDAFS Additional Silvics](#)  
[Landowner Factsheet](#)  
[USDA Plants Database](#)  
[Horticulture](#)

© Copyright 2012, Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, all rights reserved.

Photos and Text by: John Seiler, Edward Jensen, Alex Niemiera, and John Peterson.