

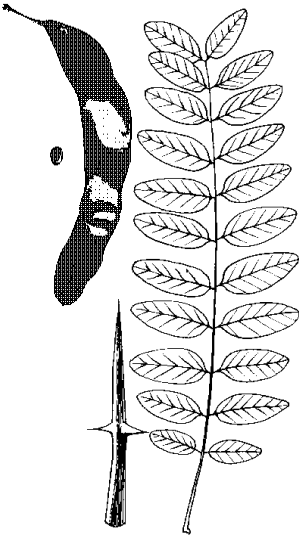
HONEYLOCUST

Gleditsia triacanthos L.

Honeylocust is not native in Maine, but has been frequently planted in urban areas in the southern and central portions of the state. It has spread readily in the town of Paris.

It has somewhat pendulous slender spreading branches that form an open, broad, flat-topped head. Simple or usually 3 forked spines, 1½ -3 inches long or longer occur on the branches and trunk. A thornless form, *G. triacanthos* f. *inermis* (L.) Zabel, is preferred in plantings. It attains a height of 75 feet and a diameter of 20 inches.

The **bark** is divided into long, narrow ridges by deep fissures and the surface is broken into small scales that are persistent.



The **leaves** are alternate, both once and twice compound, 4-8 inches long and have from 18-28 leaflets. The margins of the leaflets are finely blunt-toothed.

The **flowers** are borne in slender clusters from 2-2½ inches long. They appear in June when the leaves are about fully grown. Staminate and pistillate flowers are produced separately on the same tree.

The **fruit** is a shiny, reddish brown, flattened pod 8" or more in length. The pod is curved, with irregular wavy edges, often twisted. The walls are thin and tough.

The **twigs** are smooth and distinctly zigzag in shape. Winter buds barely protrude from the leaf scar.

The **wood** is coarse grained, hard, strong, and very durable in contact with the soil. It is used for fence posts and boat decking in Maine.