

# *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Elegantissima'

## Elegantissima honey locust



*Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Elegantissima' ('Elegantissima' honey locust) was introduced around 1880 by Charles Breton, an arborist in Orléans, France. This beautiful selection is thornless, in contrast to *Gleditsia triacanthos*. It is a compact, slow-growing tree with an upward growth habit and a mature height of 4 to 6 metres. The crown is open, egg-shaped and grows erratically.

*Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Elegantissima' blossoms in June with very small, discrete but highly fragrant, yellow-green racemes of flowers. The shape of the dark-green, matt leaves is unipinnate or bipinnate and fern-like. In the autumn, the leaves turn a beautiful golden yellow. The large, red-brown pods form a beautiful contrast with the golden yellow colour of the leaves.

Wind, drought, road salt and short wet periods are all tolerated well by *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Elegantissima'. The tree is very versatile and can be used in gardens, parks, tree containers, amusement parks, roof gardens and at cemeteries. But the thornless honey locust also works extremely well as an avenue tree on shopping streets. With a nectar and pollen score of no less than 5, the cultivar is perfectly suited as a nectar source. *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Elegantissima' thrives in both dry and damp soils, with a neutral to acidic pH value and prefers a position in the sun.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, multi-stemmed trees | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

### USE

**Location:** street, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, large garden, small garden, cemetery, bioswale | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Eco planting, Prairie planting

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** egg-shaped | **Crown structure:** open | **Height:** 4 - 6 m | **Width:** 3 - 4 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 8B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, nectar value 5, pollen value 5 | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerant to short-term flooding

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** papilionaceous, discrete, tiny, strongly scented | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** June - July | **Leaf colour:** dark green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, matt polished, serrate, dentate, pinnate, bipinnate, fern-like, Nitrogen fixing | **Autumn colour:** golden yellow | **Fruits:** striking, large, pod | **Fruit colour:** red-brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** smooth, later on rough | **Twig colour:** olive green | **Twigs:** thornless, zigzagging, short shoots | **Root system:** deep, extensive, highly branched