

Gleditsia triacanthos

Honey locust, Sweet Locust



Gleditsia triacanthos (honey locust, sweet locust) is found naturally in central North America and is a small, monoicous species in the Fabaceae or legume family. The species is named after Dr Johan Gottlieb Gleditsch, a German professor of botany and Director of the Botanic Garden in Berlin. The characteristic tree has a wide, open crown, which allows a lot of light to penetrate. It is a strong grower, which can reach 20 metres high, with a width of 8 to 10 metres. *Gleditsia triacanthos* is known for its large, branched thorns, which cover the trunk and branches.

Light-green leaves appear on the honey locust in mid-April and in the summer they are bright green. The leaves are small and feathered. *Gleditsia triacanthos* blossoms in June with white-green and discrete but highly fragrant racemes of flowers. In the autumn, the leaves are a lovely golden yellow. The pods that appear after the blossom are striking, large and red-brown. The trunk grows typically: the pieces of bark curl on one side and feel hard and sharp. In the winter, the species has a beautiful, characteristic silhouette with broad branches.

Heat, drought, air pollution, road salt and short wet periods are all tolerated well by *Gleditsia triacanthos*. This makes the tree perfectly suited for use in the urban environment, for example, although the presence of thorns should be taken into account. With a winter hardiness of 5A, the honey locust is an excellent future-proof climate plant. The species is a fantastic bee tree with a high nectar and pollen score of 5. *Gleditsia triacanthos* makes few demands of the soil, although it does prefer loamy soil with a neutral to acidic pH value. The honey locust loves light and thrives best when positioned in the sun.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees, climate trees, characteristic trees, woodland planting stock

USE

Location: park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, bioswale | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** Climate planting, Eco planting, Solid planting, Prairie planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: rounded | **Crown structure:** open | **Height:** 20 - 25 m | **Width:** 8 - 15 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, wet | **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, tolerates air pollution, tolerates heat, tolerant to short-term flooding

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, papilionaceous, discrete, scented | **Flower colour:** white-green | **Flowering period:** June - July | **Leaf colour:** bright green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, crenate, dentate, pinnate, bipinnate, composite, Nitrogen fixing | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** striking, large, pod | **Fruit colour:** red-brown | **Bark colour:** grey-black | **Bark:** slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** brown-green | **Twigs:** thorned, zigzagging | **Root system:** deep, extensive, highly branched, fleshy roots