



**Thornless Honeylocust**  
*Gleditsia tricanthos var. inermis*  
 Fabaceae

**Description**

Pods are black once ripe and contain a sweet-tasting, sticky substance, hence the name Honeylocust. Once the pods are snapped, the substance can be squeezed out similar to a honey stick. You can normally tell the difference between the toxic Black Locust and normal Honeylocusts because Honeylocusts have larger thorns (upwards of 6") with thorns on their thorns! The name tricanthos literally means triple-spined. In fact, the thorns used to be used as nails for building barns and other buildings. Luckily, this variety is thornless. The seed pods used to be a favorite food of Ground Sloths and Honeylocust were more prevalent during the Pleistocene when their seed could be more easily spread.

**General Information**

<b>Zone:</b> 3-8	<b>Soil Texture:</b> Clay, Loam	<b>Fall Color:</b> Tan, Gold, Yellow
<b>Height:</b> 60-80'	<b>Soil pH:</b> Acidic-Alkaline	<b>Bloom Color:</b> Yellow, Green, Gold
<b>Width:</b> 60-80'	<b>Exposure:</b> Full Sun, Part Shade	<b>Bloom Time:</b> Spring
<b>Habit:</b> Arching, Rounded, Spreading	<b>Water Needs:</b> Average	<b>Fragrance:</b> Yes
<b>Growth Rate:</b> >24" per year	<b>Soil Drainage:</b> Well-Drained	<b>Fruit Color:</b> Brown/Burgundy
	<b>Other Attributes:</b> Drought Tolerant, Pollution Tolerant	<b>Fruiting Time:</b> Fall
		<b>Fruit Flavor:</b> Sweet
		<b>Attracts:</b> Bees, Butterflies, Small Mammals

**Resources:**

[Plants A to Z: Find Plant Names by Letter \(thespruce.com\)](http://thespruce.com)  
[Find a Plant | NC Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox \(ncsu.edu\)](http://ncsu.edu)  
[Trees and Plants | The Morton Arboretum](http://mortonarboretum.org)  
[WSU PNW Plants](http://pnw.wsu.edu)

[The Tree Guide at arborday.org](http://arborday.org)  
[Woody Plants Catalog | The UFOR Nursery & Lab \(um.edu\)](http://um.edu)  
[Plant Finder \(missouribotanicalgarden.org\)](http://missouribotanicalgarden.org)  
[N.D. Tree Handbook \(nds.edu\)](http://nds.edu)