

Thornless Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)

The Thornless Locust, also called the Honey Locust, is a moderately fast growing tree commonly found on moist bottom lands or limestone soils. The trees can reach 70 feet tall with a spread of nearly the same. Because it has proven very hardy and tolerant of drought and salinity, it is widely planted for windbreaks and soil erosion control. The thornless variety has been planted to replace the elm in many urban areas. The wood is dense, hard, and durable but used only locally. The Thornless Locust pods are sweet and eaten by livestock and wildlife. The tree is relatively short lived, reaching the age of 125 years.

The Thornless Locust has been over planted and as a result disease problems have followed it, here in New Albany many of these trees have succumb to the disease Ganoderma. Ganoderma has become so prevalent the Thornless Locust is being phased out of New Albany's street tree inventory.