

# 10,000 TREES INITIATIVE

## TREE INFO CARD

# Honeylocust

*(Gleditsia triacanthos)*

### Get to know your tree:

The honeylocust is a Michigan native species with medium-sized, pinnately compound leaves with 15-30 small oblong leaflets. Leaves may occasionally be bipinnately compound. Fall leaf color is typically a golden yellow. Flowers are small, greenish-yellow, and occur in short spikes. Fruits are long, dark red-brown seed pods that are frequently slightly twisted into a spiral. Seed pods often persist into winter. Bark is smooth and dark grey on younger trees, often with reddish undertones and pale lenticels. On older individuals, the bark develops broad ridges. Long thorns occur on the trunk and branches, though thornless cultivars exist.

### Tree benefits:

Each year, a 1-inch diameter honeylocust provides approximately \$31.00 in benefits and reduces atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels by 10 pounds. To learn more about the benefits provided by your tree, or to see the benefits provided by larger honeylocusts, visit [www.treebenefits.com](http://www.treebenefits.com).



## Fun facts about your tree:

The name 'honeylocust' derives from the sweet, honey-like substance found within the ripe seed pods.

The thorns from this tree were once used as nails, and the wood is frequently used for posts and rails due to its rot resistance.



## Plant your tree:

When choosing where to plant this tree, consider spots with at least partial sun exposure (at least 4 hours of sun per day). Honeylocusts grow to heights of 30-70 feet, with a spread of around 30-70 feet – make sure to consider the size of the tree and do not plant this tree in close proximity to buildings or underneath overhead utilities. Please also consider potential conflicts with solar panels. This species does well in most soil types. It is tolerant of air pollution and salt.

For detailed planting instructions, please visit [www.arborday.org/trees/planting](http://www.arborday.org/trees/planting). And always make sure to call Miss Dig (1-800-482-7171) to mark underground utilities before digging on your property!

## Care for your tree:

This species is moderately tolerant of drought, but prefers moist soil. Watering should be done during dry periods - especially in the summer - but there's no set amount of water your tree needs. Instead, how much you water should be based on the soil. Check the soil at a depth of two inches - if it's moist, there's no need to water. But if it's dry, you should water your tree! Make sure not to water if the temperature is below freezing. Most trees need watering during the first two years after planting - but keep an eye on older trees as well.



[www.a2gov.org/10ktrees](http://www.a2gov.org/10ktrees)