

Invasive Species

Taxonomic Name: *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Common Name: *Black locust*

Physical Description:

Growth Type: *Robinia pseudoacacia* is a tree growing anywhere from 40-100 feet with a straight trunk and small side branches. The tree grows rapidly and is characterized by its long paired spines along the twigs when it is young.



Leaves: The leaves are rounded to oval with the leaves alternating along the stems 7 to 19 leaflets, 1 – 2 inches long. The edges of the leaflets are smooth and rounded. Leaves are a bluish-green on the top and a paler green underneath. The entire leaf is 8 to 14 inches long.

Flowers: The flowers are pale white with a spot of yellow in the middle and are the shape of a pea. They emerge in late spring after the leaves are already present. Flowers have a pleasant fragrance similar to grape Kool-Aid®.



Fruit: *In the fall brown pods form containing 4-8 seeds per pod. Pods are 2- 4 inches long.*

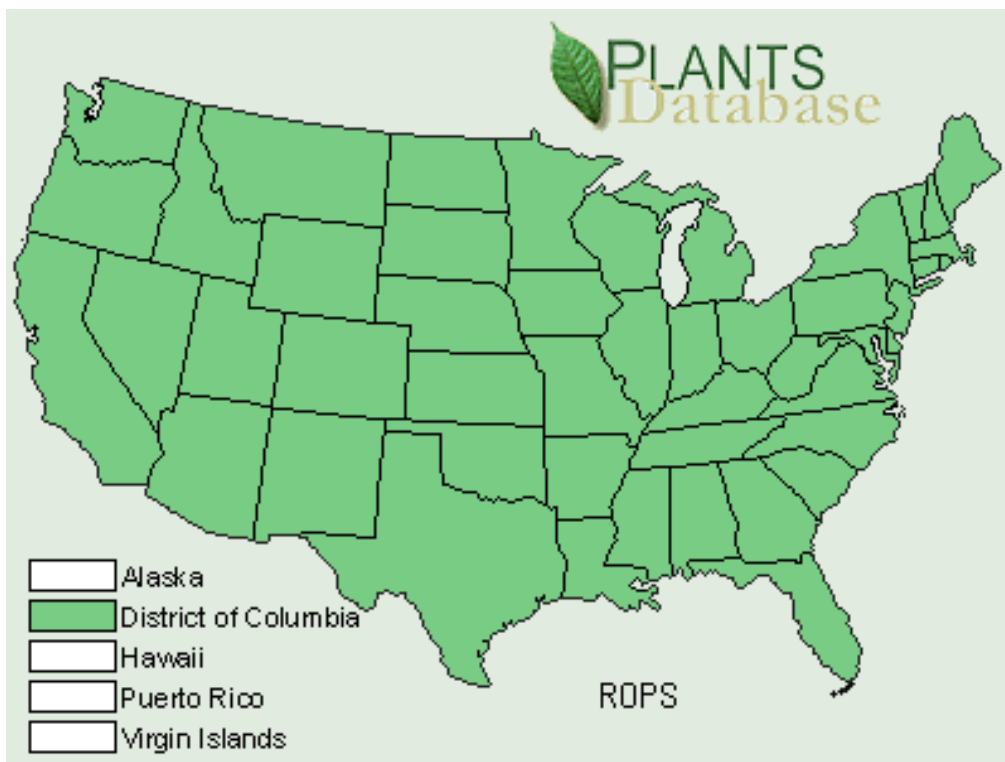


Bark: *Lighter brown, almost green when younger, with flat ridges and deeper furrows. Bark ridges can reach several inches on a mature tree.*



Invasive Nature: *The root system on Robinia pseudoacacia contributes to its invasive nature. The tree tends to sucker and produce colonies. It is also tolerant of almost any soil type, and can quickly out-compete native plants through its aggressive and dense root system. Additionally, the species produces copious quantities of seeds which can travel a great distance due to the wing-like aspect of the seed pod as well as the great height the trees can reach which catch the wind and allow for further dispersal.*

Coverage Area:



Sources:

<http://www.all-creatures.org/pica/ftshl-locust-bl.html>

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/rops1.htm>

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ROPS>

<http://www.altavaltrebbia.net/robinia.htm>