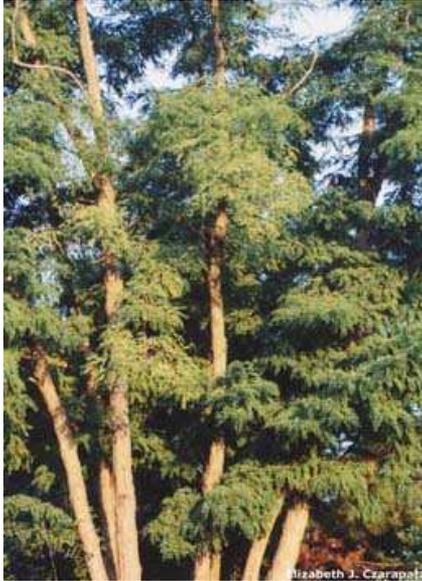


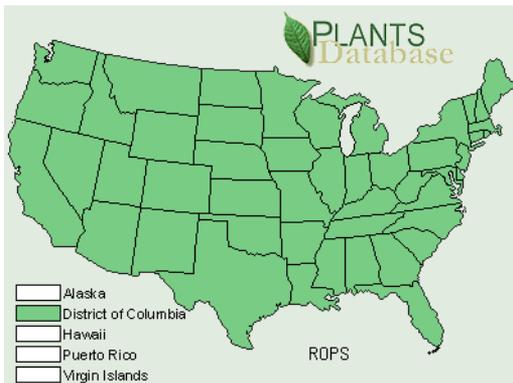
# *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Black locust

ROPS



Elizabeth J. Czarapata



No voucher specimen needed in NRS.

## ***Robinia pseudoacacia***

Black locust

ROPS

**Form:** Deciduous tree 20-25 m. Bark is gray or light brown, thick and fibrous, heavily ridged and furrowed when older, resembles a woven rope

**Leaves:** Alternate, once-compound leaves. Leaflets 6-20, egg-shaped, margins entire, 2-4 cm long. Older twigs with pair of thick spines at leaf base.

**Flowers/fruit:** Blooms in mid-to-late spring. Flowers fragrant, white, 2.5 cm long and pea-like, borne in long (10-20 cm) hanging clusters. Fruit is a flattened legume, mottled, light brown, 5-10 cm long; containing 4 to 8 kidney-shaped, smooth, red-brown seeds; ripening in the fall.

**Habitat:** Cove forests, open upland slopes, fence rows, disturbed ground, and limestone soils.

**Other distinguishing features/notes:** Sunken, white-hairy buds burst through leaf scars in spring. Native to the eastern seaboard states but widely escaping elsewhere.

**Similar species:** Prickly ash (*Zanthoxylum americanum*) is smaller and has reddish exposed buds, minutely toothed leaflets, and usually spiny leafstalks. Honey-locust has smaller leaflets and branched unpaired thorns along the twigs.

**Notes**

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Wisconsin DNR