

Black Locust
Robinia pseudoacacia



Description: medium-sized tree to 75 feet tall, to 2.5 feet diameter with a narrow, oblong, open crown of spreading branches. Ladder like compound leaves with smooth edges, and paired short spines near leaf base. Flowers in showy white clusters, fruit a narrow, brown pod

Leaves: alternate once compound with 7 to 19 oval leaflets on short stems, leaflet margins entire basis and tips round dark green above paler and somewhat hairy below especially on veins. Turn yellow in fall

Bark: light brown with many warty pores on young trees. Dark gray to black, deeply furrowed with elevated fibrous ridges when mature. Inner bark and bark of roots yellow to orange

Flowers: bisexual flowers pea-like to 1 in, with white or yellow spot, and long drooping clusters, Bloom May / June, very fragrant

Fruits: Narrow 2 1/2 in, brown, strapped like pods leg legumes to 4 in long each with four to eight flat, kidney-shaped seed

Habitat/Range: dryer Woodlands, thickets, roadsides, old fields. Widely planted from the earliest pioneer days to the present time. Also used as an ornamental, but often escapes and becomes invasive; once native only in southeastern Indiana near the Ohio River but now occurs throughout the state