

Leaves, Limbs Needles & Boughs



by Fred Opperman

Tree trivia question: Can you name the tree that has an oil throughout its system that is resistant to electricity? It makes this tree much less likely to sustain lightning damage than any other tree on your course. A hint: Westmoreland C.C. has the greatest number of these trees that I know of in the area.

It has taken me quite awhile to get around to this tree that is so prevalent on all of the courses. Some say it is over planted, but they say that about so many of our trees today.

Gleditsia triacanthos var. *inermis* — Thornless Common Honeylocust.

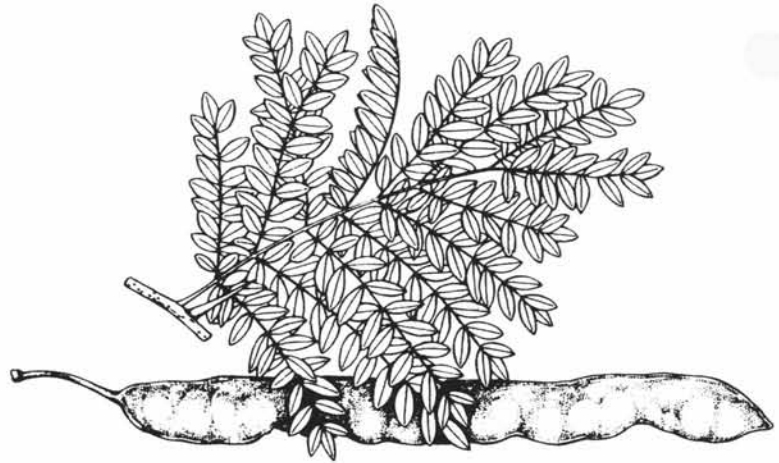
Growth: Medium tree up to about 70' tall and with a spread of about the same. Trunk diameter of 3'.

Bark: Dark brown, deeply furrowed, broken up into long narrow scaly ridges.

Twigs: Slender, angular, reddish brown, zigzag with enlarged nodes.



Leaves: Alternate, often doubly pinnately compound, with many leaflets.



Fruit: Elongated legumes or pods, up to 18" long and 2" wide flat, often twisted or curved, purple-brown, with oval seeds that are very hard and dark brown.

Culture: Easily transplanted and withstands a wide range of conditions. Likes moist bottomlands or on soils of a limestone origin.

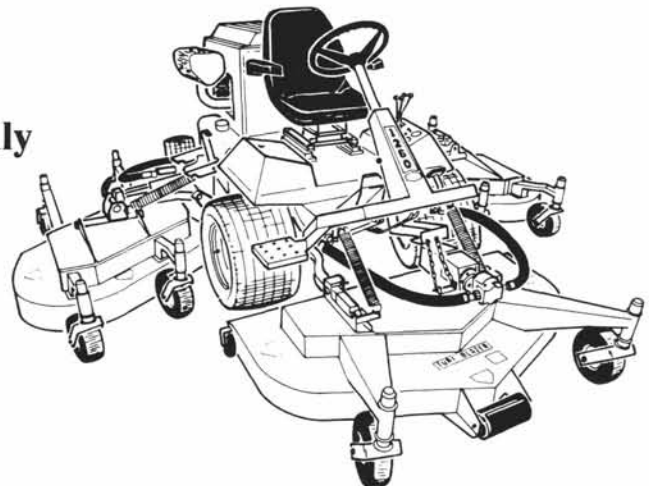
Wood: Strong, hard, reddish brown and coarse grained.

Cultivars: Many different cultivars to choose from in the area. Each has a little different growth pattern and form. The more common ones being: Moraine, Halka, Majestic, Skyline, Shademaster, and Sunburst.

Trivia answer: Beech

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