

Black Locust

Genus/species Robinia pseudoacacia

Family Papilionaceae (=Fabaceae in part)

Distribution Eastern US Central Alabama northeastward to SW Ohio and central

Pennsylvania

Disjunct population from SE Oklahoma to east central Missouri

Isolated areas of S Illinois and S Indiana

Comments

Black Locust is commonly cultivated for its showy white flowers, so the natural range has been expanded greatly. It becomes a medium sized tree often seen along roadsides, especially in moist soils underlain by limestone. The leaves are compound with relatively small leaflets. The white flowers, which bloom in spring, hang in clusters from the twigs. Although the flowers are insect-pollinated, the pollen presents an occasional allergy hazard. The seed pods rather resemble flattened pea pods.









