



Gleditsia triacanthos



Height	20 - 25 m, fast growing
Width	10-15m
Crown	round, light, open crown, capricious growing
Bark and branches	dark-grey bark with shallow fissures
Leaf	pinnate or twice-pinnate, fresh green, 15 - 35 cm, feathered leaf
Autumn colour	yellow
Flowers	♀ in light-green clusters, ♂ in spikes, May/June
Fruits	crescent shaped pods, 30 - 45 cm
Spines/thorns	Yes
Toxicity	usually not toxic to people, (large) pets and livestock
Soil type	light soils
Soil moisture	suitable for dry soil
Paving	tolerates paving
Winter hardiness zone	5a (-28,8 to -26,1 °C)
Wind resistance	very good
Other resistances	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind, resistant to de-icing salt
Fauna tree	resistant to frost (WH 1 - 6), can withstand wind, resistant to de-icing salt, valuable for bees (honey plant)
Application	avenues and broad streets, tree containers, roof gardens, industrial areas
Shape	clearstem tree, multi-stem treem
Origin	North America

In central and mid-west America this tree is found especially in swampy grounds, but can also be found in drier areas. The loose, open crown has a capriciously growing central leader. The bark is grey and has shallow fissures. In America it is an important timber producer. Trunk and branches have sharp, branched spines. The spineless variety f. inermis is a much appreciated alternative. The large, compound leaf unfolds late and turns to golden yellow in autumn. The individual leaflets are circa 3 cm in size. After the flowering the pods appear and they can grow as large as 45 cm. They are crescent-shaped, flat and usually slightly twisted. At first they are yellow green, later brown red, persisting well into winter. The tree has deep going roots with many rootlets. Tolerates hard surfacing well. Gleditsia triacanthos has dangerously sharp branched thorns both on branches and on trunk. Nowadays thornless cultivars can be obtained.