Thornless Common Honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*
var. *inermis*)

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**Summary:**
Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf  
Height: 70 feet  
Spread: 50 feet  
Shape: Oval, spreading  
Thornless honeylocust is a large tree that tolerates both wet and dry soils. One should select a cultivar for fruitlessness and pest resistance.

**Plant Needs:**
Zone: 4 to 9  
Light: Partial shade to full sun  
Moisture: Wet, moist, to dry  
Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay  
PH Range: 4.5 to 7.3

**Functions:**
Suggested uses for this plant include shade, street tree, massing, and specimen plant.

**Planting Notes:**
Plant improved cultivars with good form, and being thornless, podless, and pest resistant. Easy to transplant because it withstands a wide range of conditions.  
Prefers full sun.  
Extremely salt tolerant.

**Care:**
Spray twice yearly to control webworms.

**Problems:**
Susceptible to Thyronectria canker, mimosa webworms, leaf hoppers, spider mites, and leaf galls.  
Webworms are the worst problem, occasionally defoliating trees by August.

**Alternatives:**
Consult garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.  
Cultivars of *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*:
‘Sunburst’ has yellow new foliage which turns bright-green. It is seedless and podless, however, it is susceptible to Thronectria canker.  
‘Shademaster’ has ascending branches, dark green leaves and is podless.  
‘Majestic’ has nice dark-green foliage and is podless.  
There are many cultivars available with good form, fall color, and pest resistant characteristics.
**Comments:**
Native honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) trees are best known for their hazardous thorns and long, flat seed pods. Pest resistant, thornless, good form, and podless cultivars are highly recommended.
Lacy foliage gives a loose, open shade ideal for patios and shade loving plants.
In autumn, the small leaflets filter into the grass as they fall, requiring little raking.

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