

Bristly locust

Robinia hispida

Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental tree and to prevent soil erosion. This species is considered invasive in the state of Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington. All parts of this plant are mildly poisonous.

Habit

Deciduous tree or small suckering shrub, growing from 2-10 ft tall, new shoots are glandular-bristly. Often found in thickets since it spreads rapidly from root suckers.

Leaves

Alternate, pinnately compound; 9-13 entire, elliptical leaflets; 7-9 in long, green in color above and paler below.

Stems

Slender, zigzag and covered in bristly red hairs, later turning a gray-brown in color. buds sunken, no spines.



Flowers

Perfect, attractive, rose colored pea-like in hanging clusters, yellow spot in the center, appearing in late spring.

Fruits and Seeds

Flat pod, 2-2.5 in long and very bristly.

Habitat

Native to the southern United States. Grows well on dry, well-drained, moist, sunny or shaded areas.

Reproduction

Vegetatively by root suckers.

Similar

New Mexican locust (*Robinia neomexicana*) and Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Cutting is not recommended. Can be controlled with foliar spray FS-1 Glyphosate 3.75%, Triclopyr Amine 2.50% or with Basal Bark BB-1 Triclopyr Ester 25%

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the Virginia Tech Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation VTree. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).