

Gleditsia triacanthos 'Imperial'

Imperial honey locust



Gleditsia triacanthos 'Imperial' ('Imperial' honey locust) is a selection from Cole Nursery, Painesville, Ohio, USA and was introduced to the market in 1957. The thornless cultivar is distinguished from the main species by the regular shape of its crown, with a nice straight main branch and decorative protruding branches. It is a fairly compact grower but can reach a height of 12 metres.

In June, *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Imperial' blossoms with fragrant, discrete, yellow-green racemes of flowers. Bronze-coloured leaves appear on the cultivar in May, turning bright green in the summer. The oval leaves are unipinnate or bipinnate. In the autumn, the leaves turn a beautiful golden yellow. The small number of pods that the tree bears are very large and red-brown. The bark is slightly grooved and is grey in colour.

Wind, drought, air pollution, road salt and short wet periods are all tolerated well by *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Imperial'. The cultivar is very versatile and can be used in streets, avenues, squares and parks but 'Imperial' also does very well on central reservations, in large gardens and at cemeteries. With an optimal nectar and pollen score of 5, 'Imperial' is an excellent bee tree. The honey locust 'Imperial' thrives in dry, damp and wet soils, with a neutral to acidic pH value. The cultivar prefers a position in the sun.

SEASONAL COLOURS



TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: standard trees, multi-stemmed trees

USE

Location: street, avenue, square, car park / parking lot, park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery, traffic areas, industrial zones, bioswale | **Pavement:** none, open, sealed | **Planting concepts:** urban planting

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: ovoid | **Crown structure:** open | **Height:** 10 - 12 m | **Width:** 5 - 6 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5A - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** moderately rich in nutrients, rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun | **pH range:** acidic, neutral, alkaline | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, nectar value 5, pollen value 5 | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to salt spray, tolerant to dryness, tolerates air pollution, tolerant to short-term flooding

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: raceme, discrete, flower-scented | **Flower colour:** yellow-green | **Flowering period:** June - July | **Leaf colour:** buds bronze, green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovoid, dentate, pinnate, bipinnate, Nitrogen fixing | **Autumn colour:** yellow | **Fruits:** few fruits, large, pod | **Fruit colour:** red-brown | **Bark colour:** grey | **Bark:** slightly furrowed | **Twig colour:** red-brown | **Twigs:** thornless, bare, zigzagging | **Root system:** deep, shallow, highly branched