

HONEY LOCUST

Gleditsia triacanthos L.

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Three-thorned acacia, Thorntree, Honeyshucks, Locust.

FORM: 40-50 feet high, diameter 1-2 feet, may reach a height of 110 feet, diameter 4-6 feet, trunk usually short in the open; in closed stands rather clean and long; crown broad, round-topped, lateral branches drooping.

BARK: On old trunks grayish-brown to almost black, sometimes smooth, usually roughened by a few fissures and thick, firm, broad ridges; bark on trunks often covered with many thorns.

TWIGS: Rather stout, zigzag, smooth, glossy, with enlarged nodes, later greenish-red to brown; twigs bear thorns that are often branched.

LEAVES: Alternate, 7-8 inches long, singly or doubly compound with 18-28 leaflets, when doubly compound 8-14 pinnae, each with 18-20 leaflets, leaflets 1 1/2-2 inches long, rounded at the apex and base.

FLOWERS: Polygamous, borne in lax racemes from the axils of the leaves of the season or of preceding seasons; staminate racemes often clustered, densely flowered; pistillate racemes slender, few-flowered, solitary.

FRUIT: A more or less twisted, flat and reddish-brown pod which does not split open.

WINTER BUDS: Alternate, usually 3-5 at a node placed one above another; upper ones scaly, lowest ones not scaly, visible as a dot.

WOOD: Hard, strong, heavy; heartwood bright reddish-brown with thin pale sapwood.

USES: Landscaping. Historical uses: fence posts, wheel hubs, furniture.

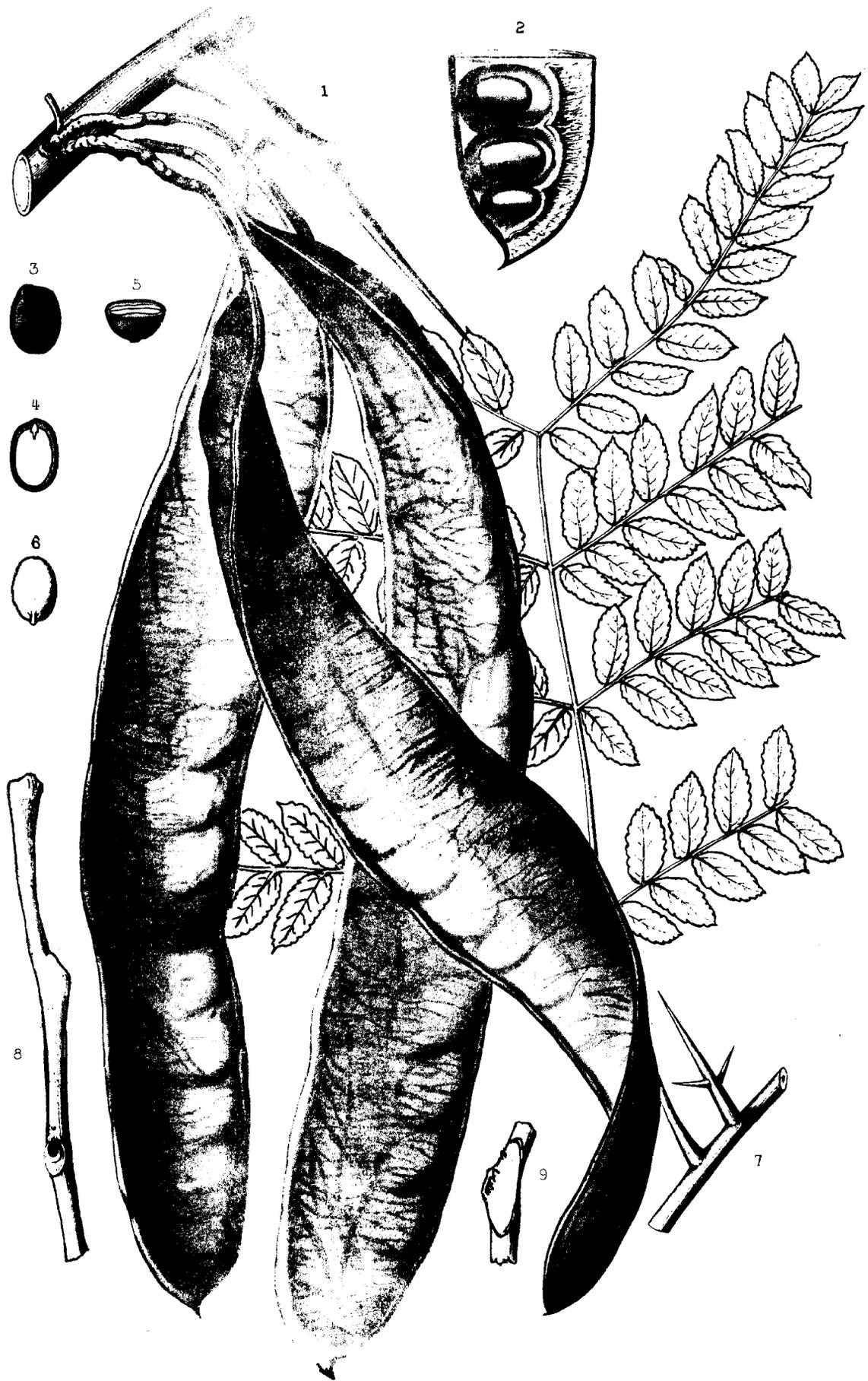
HABITAT: Prefers rich soil along streams, will grow in any fertile soil, if not too wet; demands plenty of light.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: Large branched thorns; leathery fruit-pod; once compound, sometimes twice compound, leaves.

DISTRIBUTION IN ALABAMA: Throughout the state, more common in the northern part of the state.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE

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| 1. A cluster of fruit and a spine | 6. An embryo |
| 2. Vertical section of a portion of a legume | 7. A doubly pinnate leaf |
| 3. A seed | 8. A winter branchlet |
| 4. Vertical section of a seed | 9. Vertical section of a part of a branch showing the position of the buds. |
| 5. Cross section of a seed | |



Cleiditsia triacanthos L.