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Plant Pat. 2,786

THORNLESS HONEY LOCUST TREE

Filed April 20, 1966

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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Attys

1

2,786

THORNLESS HONEY LOCUST TREE

Ralph Synnestvedt, Glenview, Ill., assignor of one-half to
Carl G. Klehm, Arlington Heights, Ill.

Substituted for abandoned plant application Ser. No.
277,055, Apr. 30, 1963. This application Apr. 20,
1966, Ser. No. 551,477

1 Claim. (Cl. Plt.—52)

My invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of
thornless honey locust, or *Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*.
The new cultivar, now over ten years old, is character-
ized by its symmetrical, broad, pyramidal habit of growth;
dark green leaves; and its retention of the green foliage
later than other known cultivars. Leaves were observed
on my discovery, in Glenview, Ill., later in the fall than
on other cultivars and up to two weeks later relative to
Shademaster.

My new thornless honey locust tree has an extreme-
ly straight and unusually sturdy central leader; grows
rapidly up to as high as an eight-foot branch tree in
the first year from a bud; and retains its foliage much
later in the season.

This honey locust tree was originated by me as a
seedling from a block of over 12,000 seedlings grown,
under my control, in my nursery in Glenview, Ill. This
honey locust tree was asexually reproduced by me in
Glenview, Ill. by budding and in Decherd, Tenn.

The accompanying illustrations show an entire plant
and in natural color typical specimens of the foliage from
one and two-year trees, showing both upper and lower
surfaces.

The following is a detailed description of my new culti-
var with color identifications in accordance with the Horti-
cultural Colour Chart, vols. I and II, published by the
British Colour Council in collaboration with the Royal
Horticultural Society, except where general color terms of
dictionary significance are obvious:

Parentage: A newly found seedling of *Gleditsia triacan-
thos inermis*, of unknown parentage.

Propagation: Holds it distinguishing characteristics
through succeeding propagation by budding.

Locality where grown and observed: Glenview, Ill. and
Decherd, Tenn.

Tree: Large; very vigorous upright, symmetrical with
spreading branches, resulting in broad pyramidal head.

Trunk.—Smooth; straight central leader. Bark gray-
ish-brown with slight gloss.

Branches.—Young branches slightly zig-zag; stout;
color, Fern Green 0862/1, glossy; lenticels numer-
ous, small light tan, slightly raised; 2 year branches,
straight Willow Green 000862/1, masked with
brown; lenticels larger, elliptical elongated, raised,
reddish tan.

Foliage:

Leaves.—Medium to large; bipinnate, 10–18 pinnae
per leaf and 16–28 leaflets per pinnae, holding later
in the fall. Average length of leaves from 25–33

2

cm. Color: Upper surface, Spinach Green 0960;
lower surface, Fern Green 0862/1.

Leaflets.—Ovate lanceolate, apex rounded; base, ob-
lique. Average width of leaflet, 7–12 mm.; aver-
age length of leaflet, 17–30 mm. Margin, crenulate.
Leaflets opposite near tip of rachis to alternate at
the base.

Rachis.—Pubescent on the upper surface; slightly to
inconspicuously grooved above.

Petioles.—Swollen at base, pubescent above.

Stipules.—Evident only on new leaves early in the
spring; 1 cm. long.

Fruit: (Only one typical pod observed in ten years. Trees
substantially seedless.)

Disease and insect resistance: The foliage is as resistant
to common insect pest as compared with other cultivars
grown under comparable cultural conditions.

My honey locust tree as a small tree maintains a cen-
tral leader better than Shademaster and will self form a
head without the pruning needed by other varieties.

My honey locust tree has a denser, heavier foliage than
any other honey locust which tends to be heavier near
the end of the new growth. The leaf area of the new
growth of my tree is at least 15% to 20% heavier than
Shademaster and at least 10% to 15% heavier than the
Majestic tree.

My honey locust tree, as stated previously, holds leaves
later in the fall, with this later leaf retention varying with
the weather from year to year, but under observation
being found to last from 10 to 17 days longer than the
Shademaster tree and from 1 to 7 days longer than the
Majestic tree.

My honey locust tree grows faster than other varieties
under the same growing conditions, with several different
observations supporting this. In the Glenview, Ill. nursery,
after a growth period of several years, and with the trees
growing side-by-side, my trees measured 5"–6" in di-
ameter, while Shademaster measured 4½"–5½" and
Majestic measured 4"–5". In a Round Lake, Ill. nursery,
100 of my trees measured 3", 3½" and 4" in diameter,
while 100 Shademaster trees reached 2½", 3" and 3½"
in diameter. In one instance, a group of my trees grew
to a diameter of 4" in five years.

I claim:

1. A new and distinct cultivar of thornless honey locust
tree with combination of features herein shown and de-
scribed, characterized particularly by maintaining a cen-
tral leader better as a small tree, growing much faster
than other cultivars, having a denser and heavier foliage
particularly near the end of the new growth, and retain-
ing leaves much later in the fall as compared with other
cultivars.

References Cited

UNITED STATES PATENTS

P.P. 1515 9/1956 Flemer P—52
P.P. 1534 12/1956 Cole P—52

ROBERT E. BAGWILL, Primary Examiner.