Black Locust

Genus/species  *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Family  Papilionaceae (=Fabaceae in part)

Distribution  Eastern US  Central Alabama northeastward to SW Ohio and central Pennsylvania  Disjunct population from SE Oklahoma to east central Missouri  Isolated areas of S Illinois and S Indiana

Comments  Black Locust is commonly cultivated for its showy white flowers, so the natural range has been expanded greatly. It becomes a medium sized tree often seen along roadsides, especially in moist soils underlain by limestone. The leaves are compound with relatively small leaflets. The white flowers, which bloom in spring, hang in clusters from the twigs. Although the flowers are insect-pollinated, the pollen presents an occasional allergy hazard. The seed pods rather resemble flattened pea pods.