

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Native to the southeastern United States.
- Medium sized tree up to 25 m tall with an average DBH (diameter at breast height) of 30-76 cm.
- Young trees feature smooth bark and pairs of long spines at the nodes of young branches; mature trees have darker bark and noticeable furrowing.
- Deciduous leaves are alternate, pinnately compound, 20 – 45 cm long and composed of 7 – 21 oval leaflets. Leaflets are 2-4 cm long, dull green.
- Fragrant, white, pea-like flowers grow on axillary, drooping raceme, 10-14 cm long. May have a light green spot on its upper petal.
- Seeds are contained within a 6-12 cm curved pod that darkens with maturity.
- Roots can vertically extend up to 7m below ground.

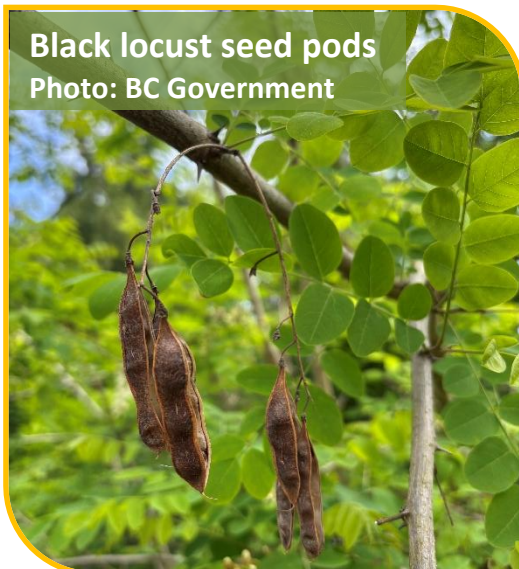


Drooping flower raceme
Photo: BC Government

PRIMARY THREATS: Black locust grows in many environments, has well traveled, long lived seeds, and can aggressively sprout from roots allowing for quick colonization of a wide variety of areas.

Black locust seed pods

Photo: BC Government



BIOLOGY & SPREAD

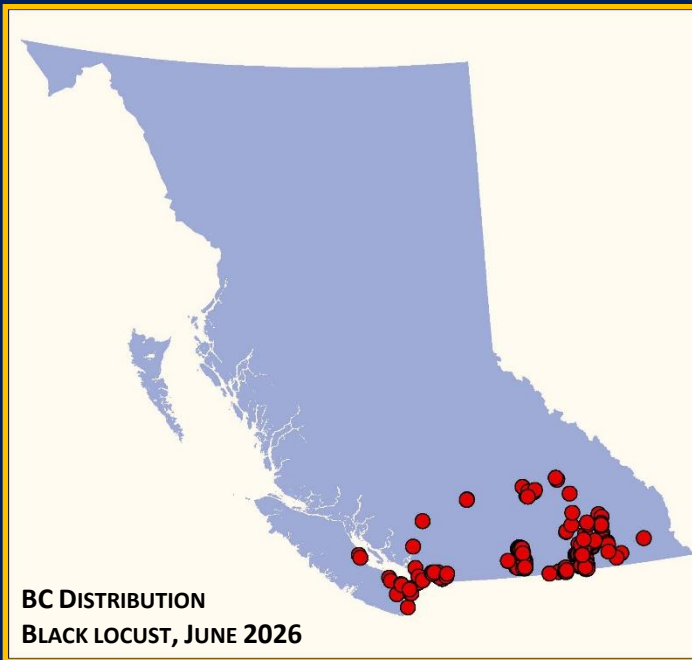
- Spreads by seed, root suckers and stump sprouts.
- Disturbance or cutting can stimulate vigorous suckering.
- May begin seed production as young as three years and are produced annually or biannually; in laboratory settings seeds remain viable for up to 10 years.
- Seed dispersal is largely via wind.
- The tree has been planted extensively outside its natural range to act as a soil stabilizer.

For more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



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REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Report** any sightings
- **Consider** a multiyear approach when treating black locust
- **Plant** native alternatives for bank stability
- **Treat** black locust before disturbing a site with digging, mowing, or machinery

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HABITAT

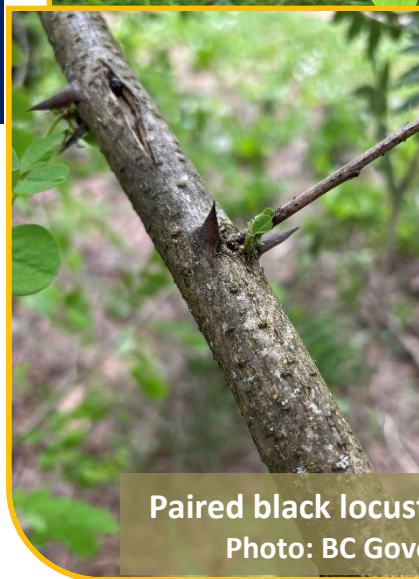
- Thrives on disturbed sites, roadsides, waste areas, burn sites, forest edges, meadows and old pastures.
- Prefers moist, rich, loamy soils with limestone origin and rainfall between 700 and 2000mm annually but can tolerate nutrient-poor, dry soils and cold temperatures.

DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Occurs across southern British Columbia with higher densities in the Metro Vancouver and Kootenay regions.
- Management goal is to prevent further expansion into new areas and to reduce overall extent where resources allow.

Black locust compound leaflets

Photo: BC Government



Paired black locust spines

Photo: BC Government



Furled bark

Photo: BC Government

