



## ***Robinia pseudoacacia***

### **Family: Leguminosae**

### **Black Locust**

*Robinia* is a genus of about 10 species native to eastern North America and Mexico. The genus *Robinia* is named for Jean Robin (1550-1629) and his son Vespasian Robin (1579-1662), herbalists to kings of France and first to cultivate locust in Europe.

#### ***Robinia kelseyi*-Kelsey Locust**

*Robinia neomexicana*-Locust, Mexican Locust, New Mexican Locust, New Mexican Robinia, **New Mexico Locust**, Southwestern Locust, Thorny Locust, Western Locust

*Robinia pseudoacacia*\*- Acacia, Bastard Locust, Black Laurel, **Black Locust**, Common Locust, Common

Robinia, False Acacia, False Black Locust, Green Locust, Honey Locust, Locust, Peaflower Locust, Post Locust, Red Locust, Robinia, Shipmast Locust, White Locust, White Honey-flower, Yellow Locust

*Robinia viscosa*-Black Locust, Clammy-bark Locust, **Clammy Locust**, False Acacia, Honey Locust, Red Locust, Red-flowering Locust, Rose Acacia, Rose-flowering Locust

\* commercial species

### **Distribution**

Black Locust is native to the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania to northern Georgia and Alabama and to the Ozark Mountains of southern Missouri, Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma. Also in southern Illinois and Indiana. It has been extensively naturalized in the United States and Canada.

### **The Tree**

Black Locust reaches heights of 100 feet, with a diameter of 3 feet.

### **The Wood**

#### **General**

The sapwood of Black Locust is a creamy white, while the heartwood varies from a greenish yellow to dark brown. It turns a reddish brown when exposed to the air. The wood is often confused with Osage Orange (*Maclura pomifera*). It has a high density and decay resistance. It shows slight shrinkage and stays in place well. It is very strong in bending and is one of the hardest woods in America. It's shock resistance is almost that of Hickory (*Carya* spp.).

## Mechanical Properties (2-inch standard)

	Specific gravity	MOE x10 <sup>6</sup> lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	MOR lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	Compression		WML <sup>a</sup> in-lbf/in <sup>3</sup>	Hardness lbf	Shear lbf/in <sup>2</sup>
				Parallel lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	Perpendicular lbf/in <sup>2</sup>			
Green	0.66	1.85	13,800	6,800	1,160	15.4	1,570	1,760
Dry	0.69	2.05	19,400	10,200	1,830	18.4	1,700	2,480
<sup>a</sup> WML = Work to maximum load. Reference (98).								

## Drying and Shrinkage

Type of shrinkage	Percentage of shrinkage (green to final moisture content)		
	0% MC	6% MC	20% MC
Tangential	7.2	5.8	2.4
Radial	4.6	3.7	1.5
Volumetric	10.2	8.2	3.4
References: 0% MC (98), 6% and 20% MC (90).			

## Kiln Drying Schedules<sup>a</sup>

Condition	Stock				
	4/4, 5/4, 6/4	8/4	10/4	12/4	16/4
Standard	T6-A3	T3-A1	–	–	–
<sup>a</sup> References (6, 86).					

**Working Properties:** It is difficult to work with hand tools, but turns well on a lathe and nails well. It has no distinctive odor or taste.

**Durability:** It is extremely durable.

**Preservation:** No information available at this time.

**Uses:** Fencing, insulator pins, furniture, mine timbers, treenails for ships. The trees are used in strip mine reclamation, due to their ability to survive the acid conditions and for their nitrogen fixing roots.

**Toxicity:** The bark is poisonous, and there are reports of dermatitis from the wood. (40, 64, & 105)

## Additional Reading and References Cited (in parentheses)

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