



Pink Flowering Locust *Robinia ambigua*

01-35



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 2-24	Full sun	Can tolerate poor soil	Regular watering	Pink flowers in 8 inch clusters	40 to 50 feet

This member of the pea family features bluish, fern-like, compound leaves made up of rounded oval leaflets. In late spring, when the foliage is still a fresh apple green color, wisteria-like clusters of blooms hang gracefully from the new branches. Their strong and sweet fragrance of honey and roses attracts insect pollinators in droves while the bright pink appeals to hummingbirds. Scarce, 4-7 cm knobby and leathery seeds pods persist on the trees through the winter, adding to interest. The fast-growing tree has a semi-columnar habit, up to 15 m, and casts a light shade, which makes it ideal for planting in areas where grass or ornamental plants are to be grown beneath the canopy. These same qualities can be exploited when making a multiple-trunk planting.

Very tolerant of poor, dry and compacted soils once established, it is often used in xeriscaping. Extensively used as a tough street tree in the dry localities of California and the American SouthWest, the Idaho Locust has not made the inroads it deserves in the Canadian nursery trade, perhaps of customer resistance to novelty, or because its northernmost hardiness is not fully determined. In my experience at least, it is completely hardy and very successful in at least zone 5a. If you're looking for something spectacular and exotic that is extremely easy to grow, be the first one in your town to showcase this tree on your lawn.

May also be referred to as "Purple Robe Locust," there appears to be considerable confusion in the nursery trade regarding nomenclature.