



Idaho Locust *Robinia 'Idahoensis'*

00-36



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 2-24	Full sun	Sandy	Low water	Pinkish red flower in spring	To 40 feet tall

Robinia x ambigua 'Idahoensis' is believed to be a cross between the white-flowered black locust tree *Robinia pseudoacacia* and the pink-flowered bristly locust shrub *Robinia hispida*. Uncertain as its parentage may be, the tree certainly combines the tall habit of the black locust and the vivid coloring of the bristly locust. 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.