Robinia pseudoacacia

**System:** Terrestrial

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<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
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<td>Plantae</td>
<td>Magnoliophyta</td>
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<td>Fabales</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
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**Common name**
Robinia akaciowa (Polish), yellow locust (English), false acacia (English), black locust (English), Post locust (English), robinier faux-acacia (French, France)

**Synonym**
Robinia pseudoacacia, var. rectissima (L.) Raber

**Similar species**
Gleditsia triacanthos, Sophora japonica

**Summary**
Robinia pseudoacacia is a leguminous deciduous tree native to the southeastern United States that has been widely introduced to other parts of North America. It is commonly found in disturbed areas such as old fields, degraded woods, forest edges, and roadsides, but it poses the greatest threat to dry and sand prairies and oak savannas. R. pseudoacacia has been planted on reclaimed land to control erosion and has been used for ornamental purposes. It reproduces vigorously by root suckering and stump sprouting to form groves of trees interconnected by a common root system.

[view this species on IUCN Red List]

**Species Description**
*R. pseudoacacia* is described as a leguminous deciduous tree that grows from 30 to 80 feet tall. Young saplings have smooth, green bark; older trees have deep, furrowed, shaggy, dark bark with flat-topped ridges. Leaves are alternate and pinnately compound with 7 to 21 leaflets. Leaflets are thin, elliptical, dark green above, and pale beneath. Flowers are pea-like, fragrant, white to yellow, and born in large, drooping racemes. Seed pods are shiny, smooth, narrow, flat, 5cms to 10cms long, and contain 4 to 8 seeds (DNR, 2003). Smaller branches are armed with a pair of setaceous stipules, or stipular spines, that occur at the base of each petiole. These stipular spines are very pronounced on resprouts, and make working among these plants somewhat hazardous (Gover, pers. comm., 2004).

**Lifecycle Stages**
According to Converse (1984), *R. pseudoacacia* is a good seed producer, with heavy seed crops at 1- or 2-year intervals and light crops in the intervening years. Best seed crops occur when the trees are between 15 and 40 years of age, but some trees will bear at 6 years and some as late as 60 years.
Uses
DNR (2003) states that the wood of *R. pseudoacacia* is valued for its durability and high fuel value, and the tree also provides good forage for bees. *R. pseudoacacia* is planted on reclaimed land to control erosion and has been used for ornamental purposes.

Habitat Description
*R. pseudoacacia* is an early successional plant, preferring full sun, well drained soils, and little competition. It invades dry and sand prairies, oak savannas, and upland forest edges. *R. pseudoacacia* is commonly found in disturbed areas such as old fields, degraded woods, and roadsides (Weiseler, 1998).

Reproduction
Wieseler (1998) states that *R. pseudoacacia* reproduces vigorously by root suckering and stump sprouting to form groves (or clones) of trees interconnected by a common fibrous root system.

General Impacts
Once introduced, *R. pseudoacacia* expands readily into areas where their shade reduces competition from other (sun-loving) plants. Dense clones of *R. pseudoacacia* create shaded islands with little ground vegetation. Lack of ground fuel limits the use of fire in natural disturbance regimes. The large, fragrant blossoms of *R. pseudoacacia* compete with native plants for pollinating bees.

Management Info
*R. pseudoacacia* produces shoots from its root system, so any control effort should be targeted against the roots (Art Gover Aliens-L., 2002). For details on management of this species, please see management information.

Pathway
According to OPLIN (2001), *R. pseudoacacia* is planted on reclaimed land and to control erosion. According to OPLIN (2001), *R. pseudoacacia* has been used for ornamental purposes.

Principal source: *Black Locust* (Wieseler, 1998)

Compiler: National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) & IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)


Publication date: 2005-06-17

ALIEN RANGE
GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE
FULL ACCOUNT FOR: Robinia pseudoacacia

[1] FRANCE
[1] GERMANY
[1] GIBRALTAR
[1] HUNGARY
[2] ITALY
[1] KOREA, REPUBLIC OF
[1] POLAND
[1] REUNION
[1] ROMANIA
[1] SPAIN
[1] SWAZILAND
[1] SWITZERLAND
[1] TURKEY
[32] UNITED KINGDOM

Red List assessed species 1: LC = 1;
Pulsatilla grandis  LC

BIBLIOGRAPHY
25 references found for Robinia pseudoacacia

Management information
Alien Species in Poland 2006 Robinia pseudoacacia
Gover, et al. 1993. Brush control provided by fall broadcast applications of combinations of Krenite or Accord with Arsenal.
Summary: Good general information about impacts and effects of the plant on some ecosystems, includes management information.
Swaziland s Alien Plants Database., Undated. Robinia pseudoacacia
Summary: A database of Swaziland s alien plant species.
Summary: This database compiles information on alien species from British Overseas Territories. Available from: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3660 [Accessed 10 November 2009]
General information


Summary: A detailed report on all aspects of R. pseudoacacia.

DNR (Department of Natural Resources). 2003. Robinia pseudoacacia. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Summary: A report on the biology and ecology of R. pseudoacacia.


Summary: A report that provides information on similar species to R. pseudoacacia.

ITIS (Integrated Taxonomic Information System). 2005. Online Database Robinia pseudoacacia

Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.


Summary: A short summary of the uses of R. pseudoacacia.


Summary: A database that provides links and information on R. pseudoacacia.