

Desert false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*)

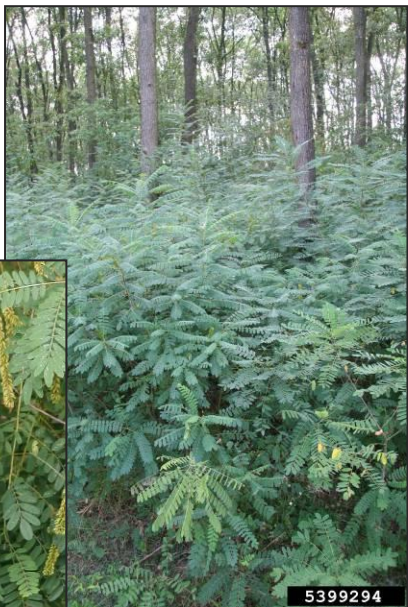
Family name: Pea (Fabaceae)

Native range: Western US

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Deciduous shrub
- 6'-20' tall
- Open, spreading form
- Young twigs green, hairy



Leaves:

- Pinnately compound
- 13 to 25 leaflets
- Each leaflet 1"- 2" long,
- Resinous (sticky), dotted, hairy



Fruit:

- 0.25" long, curved pod
- Pod covered in resinous dots
- Two-seeded
- Pods persist into winter



Habitat:

- Riparian, moist soils, meadow, roadside, landscaping
- Sun to part sun

Commercial availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Bristly locust (*Robinia hispida*)

- Native shrub of southern mountains, 3'-6' tall
- 7-13 leaflets
- Flowers 0.75"-1"
- Blooms in racemes with 3-10 flowers



Bristly locust flowers are larger than false indigo

Clammy locust (*Robinia viscosa*)

- Native shrub or small tree, up to 16' tall
- 13-25 leaflets
- Frequently bearing spines along the branches
- Dry, open ground; open woods

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) & Honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)

- Black locust and honey locust are trees
- Frequently bearing spines along the branches
- Pods 2"-4" (black) or 4"-8" (honey) long
- Many seeded



Honey locust seed pods are larger and contain more seeds than false indigo.

Flowers:

- Small, whitish to bluish-purple and drying to brown
- Clustered in an erect, terminal raceme 3"-6" long
- Blooms May-June



False indigo flowers are small.



Black locust flowers and seed pods are larger than false indigo.