

Bristly locust (*Robinia hispida*)

Also called: Standing sweet pea

Family name: Pea (Fabaceae)

Native range: Southeast US

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 1- Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately* threatening to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Deciduous shrub, to 8'
- Multi-stemmed and erect
- Stems are stiff and densely bristly
- Caution: All parts of this plant are at least mildly poisonous



Leaves:

- Alternate, pinnately compound with 7-19 leaflets
- Densely hairy
- Smooth, untoothed edges
- Each leaflet 1.5"-2" long
- Pair of long spines are found at the base of most leaves

Flowers:

- Clustered in the leaf axils
- Dark or light pink
- 2 lips, upper lip is shorter than lower (pea-like flower)
- Blooms May-June



Fruit:

- Thin seed pods, 2"-4" long
- Densely covered in bristly hairs



Habitat:

- Disturbed areas such as old fields, roadsides
- Full sun
- Planted for erosion control

Commercial Availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)

- Native to North America
- Deciduous tree, to 80'
- Distinctive brown, leathery pod
- Much larger thorns on trunk and branches
- Small inconspicuous whitish green flowers



Honey locust flower and thorn (left), seed pod (above)



Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

- Invasive tree, to 100' (native to Southeast US)
- Bark has flat-topped ridges
- Drooping white flower clusters
- Long, paired thorns



Black & honey locust are NOT BRISTLY