Honey Locust

(Gleditsia triacanthos var. inermis)
A popular Colorado shade tree valued for its filtered light, drought tolerance, and fast growth. While adaptable, Honey Locust is vulnerable to **leaf-feeding insects**, **pod gall midge**, **canker diseases**, and **root/environmental stress** in compacted urban soils.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | 🌞 Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

Problem	Type	Active Season	Icons
Honey Locust plant bug	Insect	Spring	🌸
Honey Locust pod gall midge	Insect	Late Spring–Summer	🌸 🌞

Problem	Type	Active Season	Icons
Leafhoppers / Locust leafminer	Insect	Summer	☀️
Spider mites	Mite	Summer (hot/dry)	☀️
Canker diseases (Nectria, Thyronectria)	Fungus	Spring–Fall	🌸 ☀️ 🍂
Root decline (compaction, drought, overwatering)	Abiotic	Summer–Fall	☀️ 🍂

Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

Problem	Common Symptoms	Treatment & Management
Honey Locust Plant Bug	• Leaves stippled or distorted in spring • Premature leaf drop on new growth • Small green bugs visible when disturbed	• Usually cosmetic • Natural predators often control them • Professional spray only in severe outbreaks
Honey Locust Pod Gall Midge	• Leaves curl into pod-like galls • Tip dieback on new growth • Distorted, bumpy leaflets	• Prune off heavily infested tips • Avoid excessive nitrogen (increases susceptibility) • Professional systemic or foliar treatment if severe

Problem	Common Symptoms	Treatment & Management
Leafhoppers / Locust Leafminer	• Bleached, stippled leaves • Scorch-like browning in mid–late summer • Leaf "skeletonizing" in severe cases	• Typically cosmetic • Deep watering reduces stress • Professional treatment if widespread
Spider Mites	• Fine stippling or bronzing • Dusty, dull foliage • Mites visible via *paper tap test*	• Hose-rinse foliage • Deep irrigate during heat spells • Professional miticide if heavy populations
Canker Diseases (Nectria / Thyronectria)	• Sunken or swollen bark areas • Branch dieback beginning at tips • Orange/tan fungal tissue under bark	• Prune out infected branches (sanitize tools) • Increase vigor: watering, mulch • No chemical cure; avoid trunk injuries
Root Decline / Environmental Stress	• Early leaf yellowing • Sparse canopy • Leaf scorch in midsummer	• Deep water every 2–3 weeks in summer • Improve soil drainage and reduce compaction • Avoid overwatering near clay soils

---

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

🔴 **When to Worry (action recommended)**

- Branches die progressively from the tips inward (possible **canker**)
- Multiple large galls forming across whole canopy (pod gall midge severe outbreak)
- Significant mid-summer scorch not explained by weather
- Rapid thinning of canopy or repeated early leaf drop
- Bark cracking or sunken patches on trunk or major limbs

These issues may require **professional diagnosis and pruning**.

🟢 **Mostly Cosmetic (monitor only)**

- Light spring stippling from plant bugs
- Localized leaf curling from mild gall midge activity
- Minor summer bronzing from leafhoppers or mites
- Early fall color due to heat/drought
- Occasional thin spots in canopy

These usually resolve with **normal watering and seasonal recovery**.