

Devils-walkingstick, Hercules-club - *Aralia spinosa*

Habitat

- native to Pennsylvania down through Florida
- hardy to zone 4

Habit and Form

- a deciduous small tree or large shrub
- multi-stemmed
- suckers
- 10' to 20' tall
- slow growth rate
- medium summer texture, coarse winter texture

Summer Foliage

- alternate leaf arrangement
- bi-pinnately compound leaves
- 32" to 64" long
- rachis are covered in prickles
- serrated leaf margin
- dark green leaf color

Autumn Foliage

- yellow-green fall color
- inconsistent

Flowers

- small, whitish flowers
- borne in foot long terminal panicles
- blooms in July
- pubescent

Fruit

- black drupe
- 0.25" long
- matures in late August
- attracts birds

Bark

- stout stems with prickles
- straw colored
- large moon shaped leaf scars
- lenticels

Culture

- easily transplanted
- prefers moist, well-drained, rich acidic
- full sun to partial shade
- urban tolerant

Landscape Uses

- specimen
- border
- for the texture

Liabilities

- no serious pest problems
- suckers and spreads
- prickles

ID Features

- conical, small buds
- bi-pinnately compound leaves
- prickles on rachis
- coarse, unbranched habit
- serrated leaf margin
- small, whitish flowers
- lenticels

