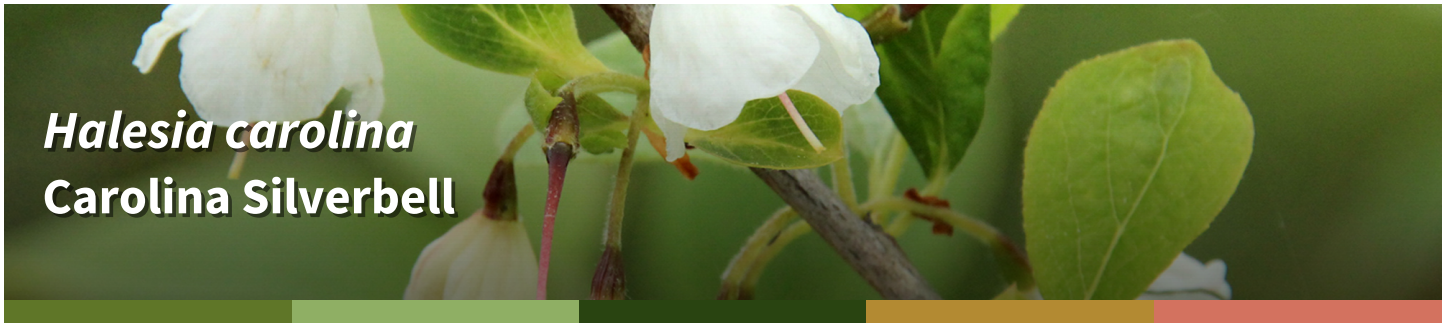


Halesia carolina
Carolina Silverbell



Halesia carolina (Carolina silverbell) is a delightful large shrub or small, usually multi-stem tree. This is in contrast to *Halesia monticola,* which develops more readily into a tree. In the wild the Carolina silverbell can reach in excess of twenty metres tall and wide but in cultivation the size is mostly limited to eight metres tall and wide. It occurs primarily as undergrowth on mountain slopes and along watercourses in damp, acidic sandy soils, on floodplains and on the edge of wetlands in the South-Eastern United States. *Halesia carolina* is found growing here with *Acer rubrum, Quercus alba* and *Liriodendron tulipifera.*

At the end of April and early May *Halesia carolina* produces bundles of hanging white bellflowers on its still bare branches. Another attractive quality is the autumn colour: beautiful dark yellow. In the summer, the oval, virtually smooth-edged foliage is dark green. After flowering unusual winged fruits appear and the wings are edible and taste of cucumber. This attribute makes the Carolina silverbell of use in food forests too. In turn, the hard nuts in these fruits are beloved by birds. The young branches are striped and the bark of older branches turns grey to brown to black, attractively ribbed and grooved.

The Carolina silverbell has a graceful habit and is one of the most decorative spring-flowering trees in gardens and parks. *Halesia carolina* prefers sandy, acidic, damp but well-drained soils, high in organic matter and in a sunny position or in partial shade. In order to fully enjoy the flowers, the tree can be best planted against a darker background such as a forest edge.

SEASONAL COLOURS

jan feb mar apr mei jun jul aug sep okt nov dec

TYPES OF PLANTING

Tree types: multi-stemmed trees, characteristic trees, solitary shrubs | **Topiary on stem**: multi-stem umbrella

USE

Location: park, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement**: none | **Planting concepts**: food forest

CHARACTERISTICS

Crown shape: wide vase-shaped | **Crown structure**: semi-open | **Height**: 5 - 8 m | **Width**: 5 - 8 m | **Winter hardiness zone**: 6A - 8B

ASPECTS

Wind: slightly tolerant to wind | **Soil**: loess, sabulous clay, peaty, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level**: rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level**: moist | **Light requirements**: sun, partial shade | **pH range**: acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant**: bees, birds, humans, nectar value 2, pollen value 2

PLANTKENMERKEN

Flowers: bell-shaped, striking, pendulous | **Flower colour**: white | **Flowering period**: April - May | **Leaf colour**: dark green | **Leaves**: deciduous, ovoid, serrate | **Autumn colour**: yellow-brown | **Fruits**: striking, winged, edible, drupe | **Fruit colour**: grey-brown, green | **Bark colour**: grey-brown, grey-black | **Bark**: peeling, deeply furrowed, furrowed, striped | **Twig colour**: grey-brown | **Twigs**: bare, striped | **Root system**: deep, highly branched

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