

# *Halesia monticola*

## Mountain Silver bell



*Halesia monticola* (Mountain Silver Bell, synonym: *Halesia carolina* var. *monticola*) is native to the Southern Appalachian in the United States. There, the mountain silver bell grows on mountain slopes, in open forests and at the edges of forests, along with species including *Acer saccharum*, *Liriodendron tulipifera* and *Tsuga canadensis*. The name *Monticola* means 'mountain dweller' in Latin. *Halesia monticola* was named after the English botanist Stephen Hales by the Irish naturalist John Ellis in 1759. In cultivation, the mountain silver bell can reach up to 20 metres in height under favourable conditions, with a semi-open oval crown. With its continuous central leader, *Halesia monticola* is the only natural tree-forming variety in the *Halesia* family.

In late April, early May, *Halesia monticola* blooms an abundant number of white snowdrops. The blooming period is followed by striking, green winged capsules, which turn brown and stay on the tree for a long time. Both the flowers and the fruits are distinctly larger than those of the *Halesia carolina*. The egg-shaped, oval leaves bud green as the flowers bloom. Together, the white snowdrops and the green leaves make for a lovely contrast. In autumn, the leaves turn bright yellow and after the leaves fall, light brown twigs on grey branches and black-grey bark, which peels off in sheets, create an exquisite winter silhouette. *Halesia monticola* is an ecologically valuable species, as it produces pollen for bees and butterflies.

*Halesia monticola* is really a tree for park-like areas and gardens, where the species shines as a solitary tree or in groups. But it can also easily be used in wide central reservations and in cemeteries. Despite its delicate appearance, the mountain silver bell is strong and healthy. The tree can handle wind and brief flooding very well, but cannot handle pavement. *Halesia monticola* has no diseases or pests and has very hard wood. Give the mountain silver bell a sunny to lightly shaded environment in nutrient-rich, humous, dry to wet soil.

### SEASONAL COLOURS



### TYPES OF PLANTING

**Tree types:** standard trees, feathered trees, multi-stemmed trees | **Topiary on stem:** multi-stem umbrella

### USE

**Location:** park, central reservation, large garden, cemetery | **Pavement:** none

### CHARACTERISTICS

**Crown shape:** ovoid | **Crown structure:** semi-open | **Height:** 15 - 20 m | **Width:** 4 - 8 m | **Winter hardiness zone:** 5B - 9B

### ASPECTS

**Wind:** tolerant to wind | **Soil:** loess, sabulous clay, peaty, light clay, sand, loamy soil | **Nutrient level:** rich in nutrients | **Soil moisture level:** dry, moist, wet | **Light requirements:** sun, partial shade | **pH range:** acidic, neutral | **Host plant/forage plant:** bees, butterflies, birds | **Extreme environments:** tolerant to short-term flooding

### PLANTKENMERKEN

**Flowers:** bell-shaped, striking, pendulous, singular, big, flower-scented | **Flower colour:** white | **Flowering period:** April - May | **Leaf colour:** green | **Leaves:** deciduous, ovate, ovoid | **Autumn colour:** golden yellow | **Fruits:** striking, winged, capsule | **Fruit colour:** brown | **Bark colour:** grey-black | **Bark:** peeling | **Twig colour:** grey-brown | **Twigs:** bare | **Root system:** deep, highly branched