



Carolina Silverbell

(Halesia carolina L.)

Location: The Carolina Silverbell grows best in the Great Smoky Mountains but grows throughout the mountain and upper piedmont regions. It is found along mountain rivers and streams. It is a medium-sized tree that grows under the canopy of the tall trees for protection and provides shelter for birds and small mammals.

Bark: The bark is very light gray on young trees and turns to a very dark reddish brown on older trees. As the tree grows older, the bark separates into scales and strips.

Leaves: Alternate, simple, oval, pointed, thin and finely toothed. They vary from 3 to 5 inches in length.

Flowers: The flowers are white and sometimes tinged with pink. They are nearly one inch long, look like small hanging bells, and appear in the early spring.

Fruit: The fruit is 1 to 2 inches long and nearly an inch wide. It has a corky, four-winged covering that holds a single seed that is a bony stone.

Wood Type: Softwood. The heartwood is soft and is cherry colored with streaks of white. The sapwood is white or creamy. It is also pest resistant.

Mature Height: 30 to 40 feet, rarely reaching a height of 80 feet

Mature Diameter: Less than 2 feet

Uses: If it is large enough, it is cut for lumber. It is sometimes used as a substitute for cherry. It is occasionally planted as an ornamental tree.

Reference: Holmes, J. S., & Holmes, J. S. (2015). *Common forest trees of North Carolina: A pocket manual*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Forest Service.