



## *Halesia monticola* 'Rosea' 'Rosea' Mountain Silverbell<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson<sup>2</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

'Rosea' Mountain Silverbell grows into a 40-foot tree in its natural habitat but is about 20 to 30 feet tall in gardens and landscapes, with an upright-spreading crown (Fig. 1). The tree prefers sandy loam and begins blooming when only 10 to 12 feet tall. The flowers are larger than those of *Halesia carolina*. The pale pink, bell-shaped blossoms are borne in clusters of up to five. Flowering occurs along last years branches in mid-spring on the previous season's wood. Because the flowers point downward, they are partially hidden by the foliage and best viewed from below. Other ornamental features are the yellow fall color and the bark, which peels off in large, flat scales. The pale yellow fruits are quite attractive as they hang down from last years branches. Mountain Silverbell may transplant poorly in the fall.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Halesia monticola* 'Rosea'

**Pronunciation:** hal-EE-zhee-uh mawn-tih-KOLE-uh

**Common name(s):** 'Rosea' Mountain Silverbell

**Family:** *Styracaceae*

**USDA hardiness zones:** 5 through 9A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** native to North America

**Uses:** container or above-ground planter; wide tree lawns (>6 feet wide); medium-sized tree lawns (4-6 feet wide); recommended for buffer strips around parking lots or for median strip plantings in the highway; specimen; residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance

**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

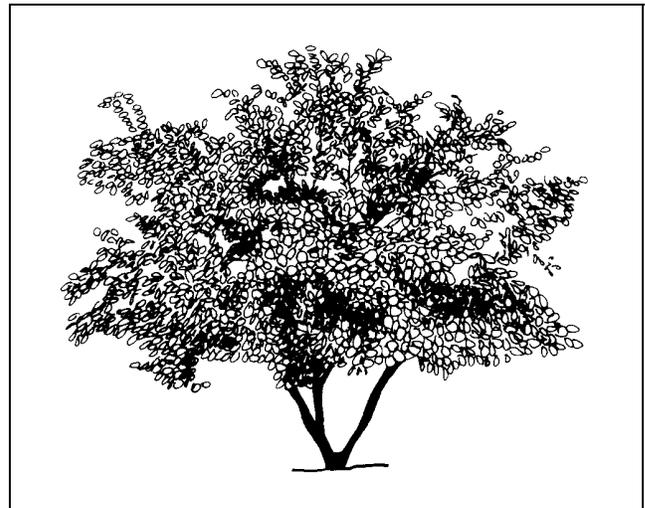


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Rosea' Mountain Silverbell.

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 40 to 60 feet

**Spread:** 20 to 30 feet

**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette

**Crown shape:** oval; pyramidal; vase shape

**Crown density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

### Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** alternate (Fig. 3)

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrate

**Leaf shape:** elliptic (oval); ovate

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Leaf type and persistence:** deciduous

**Leaf blade length:** 4 to 8 inches; 2 to 4 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** yellow

**Fall characteristic:** showy

### Flower

**Flower color:** pink

**Flower characteristics:** spring flowering; very showy

### Fruit

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** 1 to 3 inches

**Fruit covering:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** yellow

**Fruit characteristics:** does not attract wildlife; no significant litter problem; persistent on the tree; showy

### Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** droop as the tree grows, and will require pruning for vehicular or pedestrian clearance beneath the canopy; not particularly showy; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** requires pruning to develop strong structure

**Breakage:** resistant

**Current year twig color:** brown

**Current year twig thickness:** thin

### Culture

**Light requirement:** tree grows in part shade/part sun; tree grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** clay; loam; sand; slightly alkaline; acidic; occasionally wet; well-drained

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** none

### Other

**Roots:** surface roots are usually not a problem

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter



**Figure 3.** Foliage of 'Rosea' Mountain Silverbell.

trunk, or winter flowers

**Outstanding tree:** tree has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** little, if any, potential at this time

**Pest resistance:** no pests are normally seen on the tree

### USE AND MANAGEMENT

This tree is interesting all year long, with attractive medium green foliage, pretty flowers, showy fruits, and exfoliating bark. It branches low to the ground, making a nice lawn or specimen tree and when pruned to one central leader can be used as a street tree in residential areas in less than full-day sun. The bark shows off nicely with foliage removed from the lower branches, and multistemmed specimens come-to-life when lit from below at nighttime.

An understory tree best suited for a partially shaded or shaded location, silverbell prefers moist, fertile soil with an accumulation of leaf litter and/or mulch. Water during a drought and avoid compacted soil.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases of serious concern, occasionally leaf spot.