



## *Halesia carolina* 'Rosea' 'Rosea' Carolina Silverbell<sup>1</sup>

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### INTRODUCTION

A North American native tree, Carolina Silverbell grows into a 20 to 40-foot-tall tree with a 15 to 30-foot-spread into a pyramidal silhouette (Fig. 1). The two to four-inch-long leaves turn yellow in fall and are among the first to drop in autumn. The tree prefers sandy loam and begins blooming when only 10 to 12 feet tall. The pink, bell-shaped, showy blossoms are borne in two to five-inch-long clusters. Flowering occurs along last year's branches in mid-May 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 year's branches. Carolina Silverbell may transplant poorly in the fall.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Scientific name:** *Halesia carolina* 'Rosea'  
**Pronunciation:** hal-EE-zhee-uh kair-oh-LYE-nuh  
**Common name(s):** 'Rosea' Carolina Silverbell  
**Family:** *Styracaceae*  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 5 through 8 (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); near a deck or patio; narrow tree lawns (3-4 feet wide); specimen; residential street tree; no proven urban tolerance  
**Availability:** grown in small quantities by a small number of nurseries

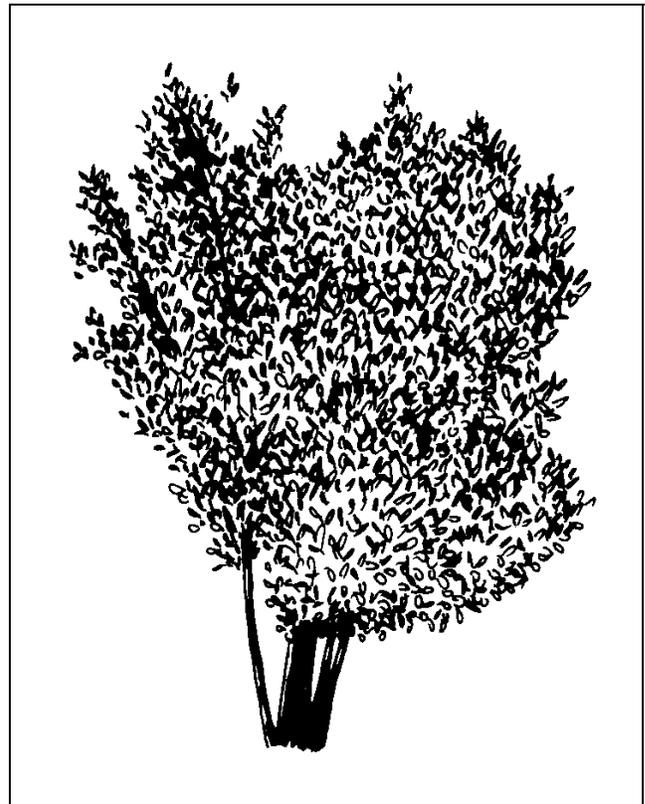


Figure 1. Middle-aged 'Rosea' Carolina Silverbell.

### DESCRIPTION

**Height:** 20 to 40 feet  
**Spread:** 15 to 30 feet  
**Crown uniformity:** irregular outline or silhouette  
**Crown shape:** round; upright; vase shape  
**Crown density:** moderate  
**Growth rate:** medium

1. This document is adapted from Fact Sheet ST-289, a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: November 1993.
2. Edward F. Gilman, associate professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; Dennis G. Watson, associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611.



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Texture:** fine

### Foliage

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

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** serrulate

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

**Leaf venation:** pinnate

**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; showy trunk; should be grown with a single leader; no thorns

**Pruning requirement:** needs little pruning to develop a 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

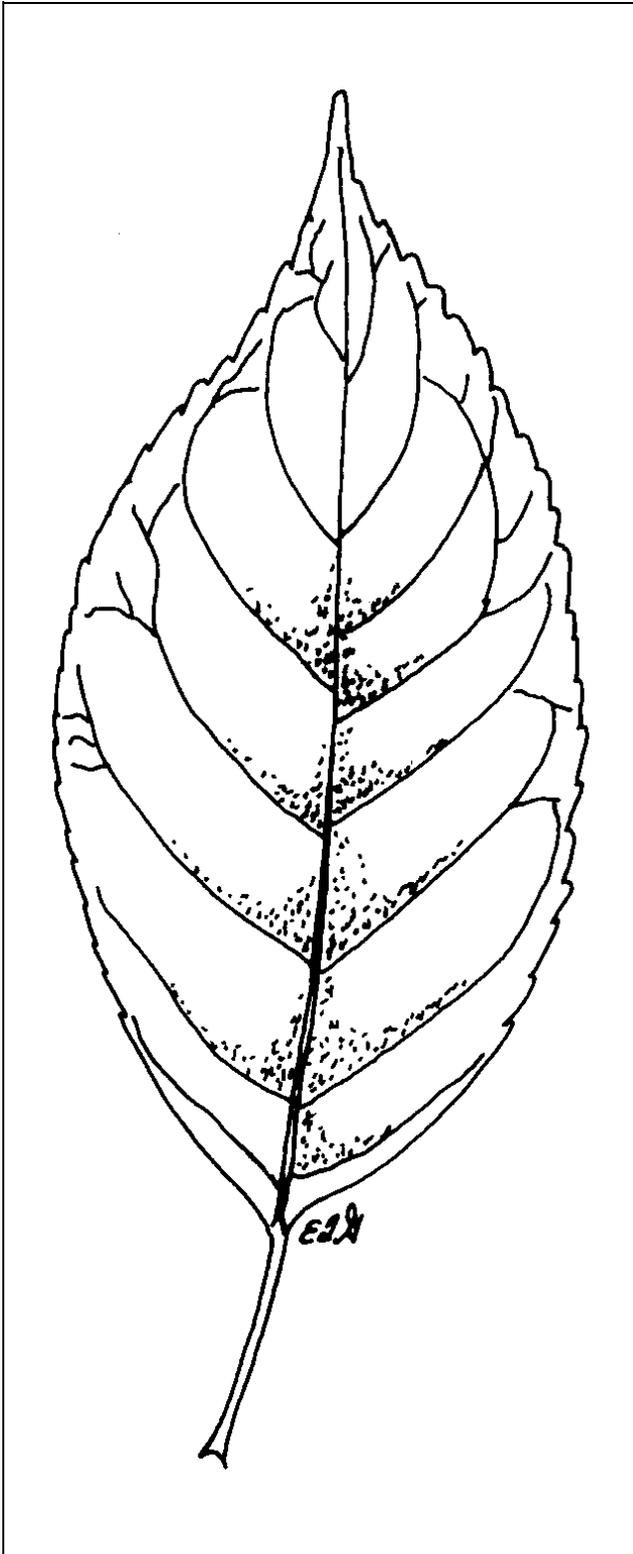


Figure 3. Foliage of 'Rosea' Carolina Silverbell.

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

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerance:** low

### Other

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

**Winter interest:** tree has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter 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. The bark shows off nicely with foliage removed from the lower branches, and multi-stemmed specimens come-to-life when lit from below at nighttime. They would make a perfect small-sized tree for planting near a deck or patio.

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. The tree grows best if roots are not confined to a small area and are allowed to explore a large soil area. Water during a drought and avoid compacted soil.

Propagation is by seeds sown as soon as ripe or stratified, and by layering, root cuttings, and greenwood cuttings. Small trees and seedlings transplant easily.

### Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.