

flat-topped, shapely tree with wide-spreading branches; in the interior of the country and especially on the slopes of the high southern Appalachian Mountains it grows sometimes a hundred feet high and forms a tall, massive trunk often five feet in diameter and a narrow head of erect branches. The flowers are inconspicuous, and the small, dark blue, plum-like fruit is so hidden by the leaves that it does not make much show. The beauty of this tree is found in its habit and in the thick dark green, shining leaves. The long hard roots make the Sour Gum difficult to transplant and only very small plants can be successfully moved. It is not therefore often found in nurseries and has never received the attention from planters of ornamental trees which it deserves. The group of this tree is at the lower end of the Bussey Hill Road near the small pond, at the junction of this road with the Meadow and Forest Hills Roads.

Halesia tetraptera, var. monticola. The Silver Bell tree of the southern states, *Halesia tetraptera*, has long been cultivated in northern gardens. It is usually shrubby in habit with several stout wide-spreading stems, and here at the north, rarely grows more than fifteen or twenty feet high. It is an inhabitant of the southern states from West Virginia to southern Illinois, northern Florida and eastern Texas. It grows at low altitudes and does not appear to ascend to the slopes of the high Appalachian Mountains, although the *Halesia* of those mountain forests was long considered identical with the lowland tree. The *Halesia* of the high slopes, however, is a tree often eighty or ninety feet high, with a trunk three feet in diameter, sometimes free of branches for a distance of sixty feet from the ground. It is apparently only in recent years that this mountain tree has been introduced into cultivation by the Biltmore Nursery. From Biltmore it was sent to the parks of Rochester, New York, and from Rochester it came to the Arboretum with a description of its peculiar habit, large flowers and fruit. The mountain tree which has lately been distinguished here as var. *monticola* grows as a tree from the time the seed germinates and the seedlings show no variation of habit. Young trees are clean stemmed with short branches which form a narrow pyramidal head. The leaves are of rather different shape and less hairy than those of the lowland tree; the flowers are fully a third larger and the fruit is nearly twice as large. Trees less than ten feet produce flowers and fruit in abundance. There is now every reason to believe that the mountain *Halesia* will prove one of the handsomest flowering trees of large size which it is possible to cultivate in this climate. Its tall trunk and narrow head suggest that it may prove a good street and roadside tree. Two young trees now covered with fruit are growing on the upper side of Hickory Path near Centre Street; growing with them is a plant of the lowland form, also covered with fruit, so that it is possible to compare these two forms as they appear at this season of the year.

The subscription to these Bulletins is \$1.00 per year, payable in advance.



1915. "Halesia tetraptera, var. monticola." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 1(15), 60-60.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320433>.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320433>

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