



***Halesia* spp.**

**Family: Styracaceae**

**Silverbell**

The genus *Halesia* is composed of about 4 species native to: the United States [3] and China [1]. The word *halesia* is named after Stephen Hales (1677-1761), British clergyman and author of *Vegetable Statics* (1722).

*Halesia carolina*-Bell-tree, Bell Olivetree, Bellwood, Box-elder, **Carolina Silverbell**, Catbell, Florida Silverbell, Four-winged *Halesia*, Little Silverbell, No-name-tree, Opossum, Opossumwood, Mountain Silverbell, Rattle-box, Silverbell-tree, Silver-tree, Snowdrop-tree, Tisswood, Wild Olivetree

*Halesia diptera*-Cowlicks, Silverbell-tree, Snowdrop-tree, Southern Silverbell-tree, **Two Wing Silverbell**

*Halesia parviflora*-Florida Silverbell, **Little Silverbell**.

**Distribution**

Southeastern United States and China.

**The Tree**

Silverbells are shrubs or trees with scaly reddish brown bark. The leaves and small branches are covered with stellate (star shaped) hairs. The showy white flowers are produced in small, pendulous clusters. They produce dry, winged fruits (samara). Silverbells can reach a height of 100 feet, although they normally grow to 40 feet. The bark is thin, separating into slightly ridged, reddish brown scales.

**The Wood**

**General**

The wood of Silverbell is brown, strong, dense and close grained. It has a wide white sapwood and a pale brown heartwood. The luster is medium and it has no odor or taste. The texture is fine and uniform, with a straight grain.

**Mechanical Properties (2-inch standard)**

	Specific gravity	MOE x10 <sup>6</sup> lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	MOR lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	Compression		WML <sup>a</sup> in-lbf/in <sup>3</sup>	Hardness lbf	Shear lbf/in <sup>2</sup>
				Parallel lbf/in <sup>2</sup>	Perpendicular lbf/in <sup>2</sup>			
Green	.42	1.2	6500	2800	430	8.8	470	930
Dry	.48	1.3	8600	5100	680	6.9	590	1200
<sup>a</sup> WML = Work to maximum load. <sup>b</sup> Reference (98). <sup>c</sup> Reference (59).								

**Drying and Shrinkage**

Type of shrinkage	Percentage of shrinkage (green to final moisture content)		
	0% MC	6% MC	20% MC

Tangential	7.6	-	-
Radial	3.8	-	-
Volumetric	12.6	-	-
<sup>a</sup> Birch shrinks considerably during drying. References: 0% MC (98), 6% and 20% MC (90).			

**Kiln Drying Schedules<sup>a</sup>**

No information available at this time

**Working Properties:** Good

**Durability:** Not highly resistant to decay.

**Preservation:** No information available at this time

**Uses:** Paneling, cabinetwork

**Toxicity:** No information available at this time.

**Additional Reading and References Cited (in parentheses)**

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4. Markwardt, L.J. and T.R.C. Wilson. 1935. Strength and related properties of woods grown in the United States. USDA Forest Service, Tech. Bull. No. 479. USGPO, Washington, DC.
5. Panshin, A.J. and C. de Zeeuw. 1980. Textbook of Wood Technology, 4th Ed., McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 722 pp.
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