



Under the Oaks

Newsletter of the Arboretum at Memphis Botanic Garden

Volume 3

2009 Spring's Best Plant Sale at Memphis Botanic Garden



- Make plans now to attend the 34th annual “Spring’s Best Plant Sale”.
- Free to the public on April 17—19th, 2009.
- Friday and Saturday hours are 9 am till 5 pm : Sunday from 11 am till 4 pm.
- This is the Botanic Garden’s largest plant sale of the year. A huge assortment of perennials, annuals, tropicals, herbs, shrubs and trees will be available. Expert garden staff and Master Gardeners will be on hand to assist with purchases and plant care tips.
- Proceeds from the plant sale will directly support the Garden’s educational and horticultural programs.



A Tree to Know

Carolina silverbell

Halesia tetraptera

Pronounced huh lee’ zee uh teh trap’ ter uh

Family: Styracaceae

Origin: Southeastern United States

Zones 4-8(9)

Found in moist, rich woods and along streams.

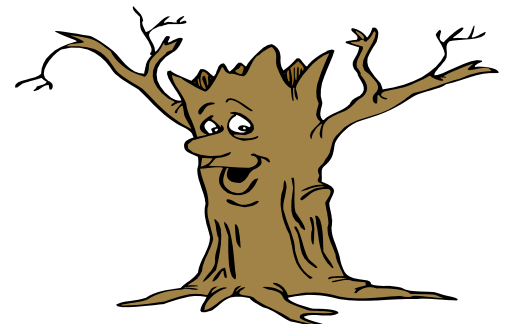
20-40 feet average height

15– 20 foot spread

Blooms are white 1” bells that hang in clusters and appear before the tree leafs out in early spring. Carolina silverbell blooms at the same time as redbud and dogwood. Has attractive gray-brown bark with white furrows. Leaves turn yellow in fall. This tree is an essential understory tree of the Appalachian forests. There is a pink form, ‘ Arnold Pink’ which has flowers of light pink.

Which tree am I?

1. My bark separates into large papery scales, but does not fall off.
 2. My tough wood is used to make butcher blocks.
 3. My sweet seeds were used by native Americans for making soup and bread.
 4. My fruit may be eaten, but it is not sweet.
- a. White oak b. Sycamore c. Wild Cherry d. River Birch



Tips for selecting a tree

The tree should have a healthy crown— healthy green leaves and good twig extension growth
 Look for insect and disease problems on the leaves, branches and trunk
 In most cases, the tree should have a straight, single trunk
 The trunk should be firmly attached to the rootball
 The roots should be white. Avoid trees with roots that circle the pot .



Tree have a positive impact on the value of real estate. Healthy, mature trees can add 20% or more to the value of a residence.

Evergreen—Trees that have green foliage throughout the year

Deciduous— Trees that lose their leaves in the fall to prepare for winter



Arborist— is a skilled professional who is trained in the art and science of tree planting and maintenance. Arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees, and are trained as well as equipped to provide proper care for trees. Hiring an arborist is an important decision for homeowners, because proper tree care is an investment that can lead to a substantial return. Arborists are certified by the International Association of Arboriculture (ISA).

Tree Planting

After the first hard freeze until early spring is a good time to plant trees. During this time, the roots can become established before the hotter weather. Roots continue to grow as long as the soil temperature is above 40 degrees. Trees planted at this time have increased survival rates over trees planted later. The planting hole should be as deep as the root ball and twice as wide. The tree should be planted at the same depth that it grew previously. After planting, the hole should be filled with the soil that came from the hole. Soil amendments and fertilizers are not needed at this time. Most trees do not need support with stakes or wires. Trees need to be watered regularly for the first two years if rainfall is not adequate (at least 1” per week).

Leaves are the food producing part of a tree. Leaves contain chlorophyll, which uses the sun’s energy to make sugar through the process of photosynthesis.

Wood products such as lumber, paper, furniture and flooring are one of Tennessee’s most valuable agricultural crops.

Which tree am I? (answers)
 1.d 2.b 3.a 4.c



A century ago, chestnut trees were common in Tennessee. They provided strong, rot-resistant wood and their nuts were an important food for wildlife and man. In the 1930’s and 1940’s, a fungus from Asia was introduced to the United States and caused the demise of most of the chestnut trees. Breeding programs are underway to produce chestnut trees that are resistant to this blight.

