

# A Tree to Consider

by Sharon Burch

A tree that we recently lost and might be considered as a candidate for your garden is the Carolina Silverbell, *Halesia tetraptera*. I have seen this lovely tree in bloom, and though the tree was young, it's few blooms foretold of a brilliant future. Carolina Silverbells have been called one of the most beautiful of all flowering trees. From late March to early April, when the leaves have just begun to reemerge, the tree is covered with clusters of 1/2 to one inch long, white, bell shaped flowers. Its unusually shaped fruit, with four distinct wings, then ripen in early autumn.

Carolina Silverbell, *Halesia carolina*

A mature Silverbell reaches heights of 30 to 40 feet and widths of 30 feet. It prefers well drained soil and tolerates sun or shade. This tree is not commonly found in North American gardens. We would like to add this tree back to our arbore-

tum. My husband tells me I've already brought too many "interesting" trees to our home and that I must find good home for a Carolina Silverbell.

