

Village Garden Center

& Landscape Service

ISSUE 62 April 2015

Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia tetraptera*)

By Eva Soud



Carolina Silverbell is a native hardwood understory tree that is typically found along slopes and streams in ravines in hardwood forests. They favor north and east-facing aspects with moist, well-drained acidic loam soils. They thrive in full and partial shade and have a core range in the southern Appalachian Mountains, but stretch as far as eastern Oklahoma, northern Florida, and southern Illinois. This tree typically grows to be 30-40 feet, but can grow as high as 80 feet. Its primary feature is beautifully bell-shaped white flowers that hang in clusters and are borne in the spring.

In this issue

Page 1-----Carolina Silverbell
 Page 2-----Time in the Garden
 Page 3-----Wood pallet gardens
 Page 4--5
 From The Garden of Eva
 Page 6-7-----Dogwoods
 Page 8-----Dogwoods continued
 Page 9-----How to plant a tree
 Page 10 -11--Living with nature
 Page 12-----Eggheads



Family: Styracaceae

Zone: 4 to 8

Height: 30.00 to 40.00 feet

Spread: 20.00 to 35.00 feet

Bloom Time: April

Bloom Description: White

Sun: Full sun to part shade

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low



Thyme in the Garden



Gardening with wood pallets

1. Find Your Pallet

To find free pallets, call your local garden supply store or any shop that carries large equipment.

2. Collect Your Supplies

You'll need: Your pallet, two large bags of potting soil, 16 six-pack starter plants of annual flowers, Or vegetables.a small roll of landscape fabric, a staple gun, staples and sandpaper. You'll find these items at your local hardware store.

3. Clean Your Pallet

You probably picked the best of the litter, but give your pallet another once-over for chipped wood and loose nails. Use the sandpaper to smooth any potentially dangerous spots. If you're going to paint it, paint it now with water-resistant paint.

4. Staple the Landscape Fabric

You're going to cover the bottom, back and sides of your pallet with landscape fabric, so choose which side of your pallet you want to show. Lay your pallet face down, and then roll the landscape fabric over the entire back. If it looks thin, layer the fabric twice. Staple the fabric into place near the top edge



of the board, and then pull it taut. Staple every two inches. Repeat the stapling process on all four sides of the pallet until the back and sides are fully covered with fabric.

5. Staple Again

Staple along the spine of the pallet and anywhere you think soil could fall out of the pallet. You can't over staple this project.

6. Plant

You're going to plant with your pallet laying flat on the ground, so bring it close to its final spot

and lay it top up.



First, slide the plants into what will be the top. Plant very tightly – you don't want any soil to fall out. Once the top is capped, pour the entire first bag of potting soil onto the pallet and push it through the slots. Repeat this process with the second bag. Then, plant at least six plants into each open pallet slot, making sure to tightly pack the soil.

7. Show Off Your Pallet Garden

When you're done, you should have plants completely covering each opening and the soil should be hidden.

Keep in mind that there are some serious health hazards associated with mixing pallets with potential foods. For a colorful and safe garden, grow flowers instead of herbs.

Hanging Garden. If you're short on space, grow flowers on a repurposed pallet. All you need is an old pallet, screws, clamps and pots.

Note: The safest use for pallets is outdoors as a compost bin, a non-food garden or a bike rack.



From the garden of Eva

Bunny Butt Cake



Ingredients

1 box Betty Crocker™ SuperMoist™ yellow or white cake mix Water, vegetable oil and eggs called for on cake mix box Tray or cardboard covered with wrapping paper and plastic food wrap or foil
1 container Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy vanilla frosting Red food color 1 large marshmallow, cut in half 3 cups shredded coconut Green food color 2 strawberry or cherry stretchy and tangy taffy candies (from 6-oz bag) 1 roll Betty Crocker™ Fruit Roll-Ups® punch berry chewy fruit snack (from 5-oz box) 3 green-colored sour candies, separated into strips Construction paper

Directions

1 Heat oven to 325°F. Grease 1 1/2-quart ovenproof bowl (8 inches across top) with shortening; coat with flour (do not use cooking spray). Lightly grease 3 muffin cups in regular-size muffin pan.
2 Make cake batter as directed on box. Pour cake batter in 3 muffin cups, filling two-thirds full. Pour remaining batter into 1 1/2-quart bowl.
3 Bake cupcakes 17 to 21 minutes, bowl 47 to 53 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Remove cakes from muffin cups and bowl; place rounded sides up on cooling racks. Cool completely, about 1 hour. If necessary, cut off rounded tops of cakes.
4 Spoon frosting into large bowl. Add red food color to make desired pink color. Place bowl cake on tray cut side down; spread 1/3 cup frosting over cake. Use frosting to adhere cupcakes to bowl cake for feet and bunny tail. Use toothpicks if necessary. Place marshmallow halves, cut sides down, on tops of 2 cupcakes to make heels of feet. Spread thin layer of frosting over side and top of cake to seal in crumbs. Freeze cake 30 to 45 minutes to set frosting.

5 Spread remaining frosting over cake. Sprinkle with 2 cups of the coconut; press gently to adhere. Shake 1 cup coconut and 3 drops green food color in tightly covered jar until evenly tinted. Surround bunny with tinted coconut. Use rolling pin to press strawberry candies into 2 large rectangles. Cut 2 large ovals and 6 small circles out of candy. Press onto bottoms of bunny feet, using frosting if needed.

6 Roll up fruit snack to make carrot shapes. Cut green sour candies in half crosswise; press into large end of each carrot to make greens on carrot. Cut ears from construction paper; wrap ends that will be inserted into cake with plastic food wrap. Insert into cake. Remove ears, plastic wrap and toothpicks before serving. Store loosely covered.

Carrot Crescents Filled with Egg Salad



Ingredients: 1 tube Pillsbury Crescent Recipe Creations Crescent Seamless Dough Sheet 1 egg (whisked with 1 teaspoon of water to make an egg wash) yellow and red liquid food coloring 1 1/2 cups of your favorite egg or ham salad 1 bunch of fresh dill or parsley These crafty carrots will keep both the Easter Bunny and your family satisfied come Easter brunch. Start by cutting the dough into six equal strips. Brush with egg wash, and then roll into a log. Wrap the logs around a cream horn mold to give them their carrot shape. Brush each carrot with the orange food coloring mixture, and then bake for six to eight minutes until golden brown. When cool, stuff with egg or ham salad and add a piece of dill or parsley for decorative effect.



Cherokee Chief

Red Dogwood

Plant Description

A classic beauty, offering deep, ruby-red flower bracts and four seasons of interest. New leaves emerge bronze-red in spring, maturing to green. Autumn brings fantastic burgundy-red foliage.



The show continues into winter, with red fruit clinging to bare branches. This small, low-branched tree has an attractive branching habit, giving a graceful, layered effect. Deciduous.

Appalachian Spring

Cornus florida Dogwood Tree

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, anthracnose devastated the populations of our native Dogwoods. One particularly sad infestation was on Catoctin Mountain, Maryland, where the entire population was affected . . . except for one tree. That tree became, under the University of Tennessee's Dogwood Breeding Program, 'Appalachian Spring.'



In addition to being 100% resistant to anthracnose, this white-flowered variety is very vigorous and quick growing, reaching its mature size of about 20 feet high and wide sooner than expected. Its foliage, unusually large for the species, turns from apple-green to intense crimson in autumn, and large red fruits follow the spring blooms, delighting the birds all the way into winter. Upright and naturally symmetrical, 'Appalachian Spring' makes a fine specimen. It combines well with pink-flowered Dogwoods in a mass planting.



Stellar Pink®

Dogwood



Photo: Stellar Pink Flower.

Photo: Stellar Pink blossoms.

Photo: Stellar Pink fall color.

Stellar Pink® has gained a solid reputation with nurseries and landscapers as the most asked for pink dogwood available today.

Qualities for Stellar Pink® include:

- Plants of Stellar Pink® are known to be very vigorous growers
- This variety is erect in growth habit and is more uniformly full in width than are trees of Kousa dogwood
- The flower (bract) heads are very attractive with a blush pink color
- Stellar Pink® will produce a very vigorous growing and hardy tree
- The period of flowering in the spring is quite similar to that of Aurora® and Celestial®, and starts a few days after the floral display periods for Ruth Ellen®, Stardust® and Constellation® begin, and five to seven days after the completion of the floral display periods of most plants of the American dogwood
- At twenty years old the original tree of Stellar Pink® was approximately twenty three feet tall and eighteen feet wide
- Stellar Pink® has good resistance to the diseases powdery mildew and anthracnose
- Has displayed a high level of winter hardiness

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 6A



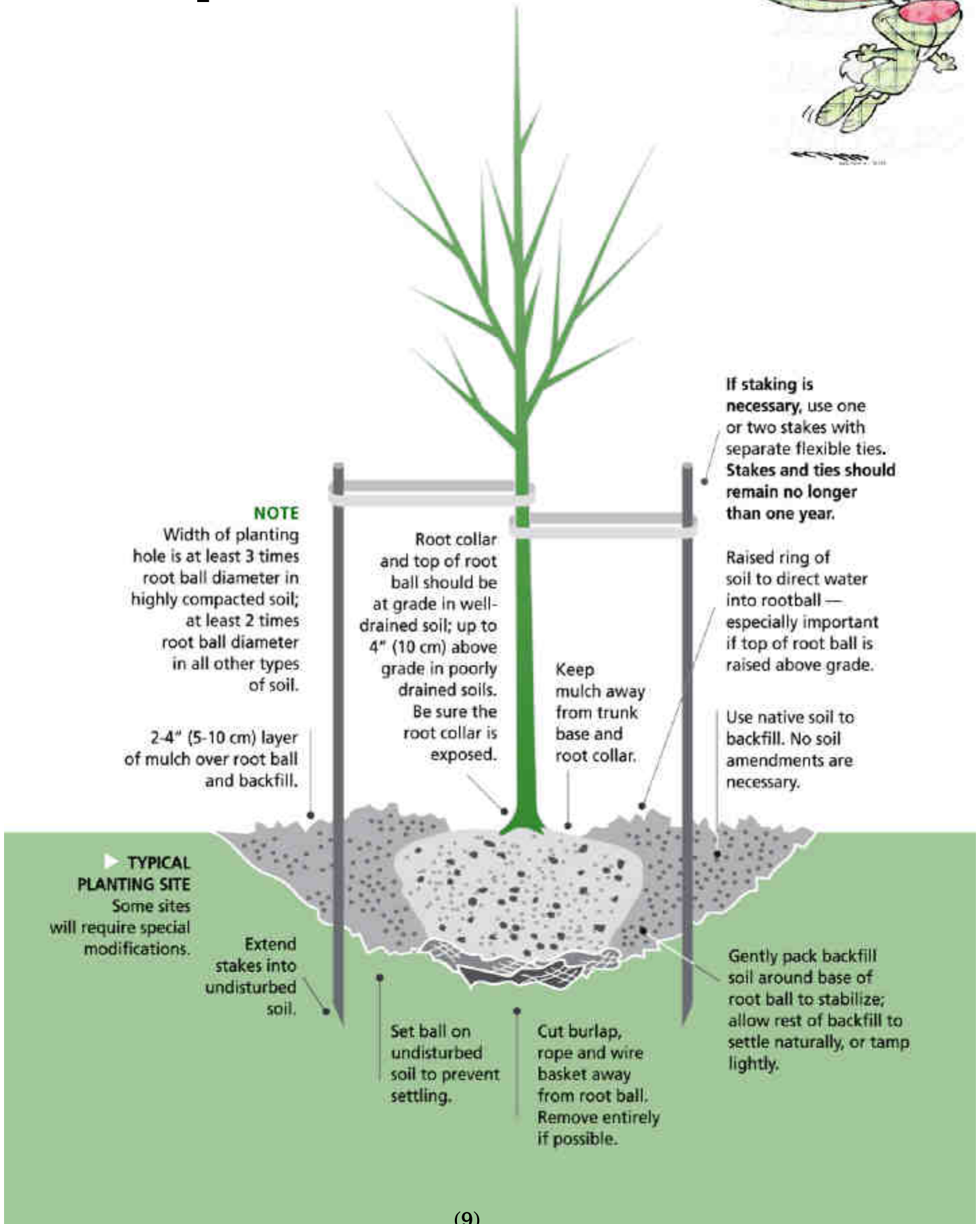
Venus® Dogwood

Qualities for Venus® include:

- Distinguished by exceptionally large, profuse, large creamy white flowers (bracts) – six plus inches in size
- With Venus® expect abundant flowers that will almost completely cover the tree
- During the fall months you will find attractive strawberry like fruit
- Expect attractive glossy dark green leaves during the summer and a wonderful coloring of its leaves in the fall
- This variety will produce a tree that is extremely healthy and a vigorous grower
- Has a reputation for good tolerance of drought conditions
- Venus® is noted for high resistance to the diseases powdery mildew and anthracnose
- Venus® grows very vigorously as a dense tree branched low to the ground with upright branches. Heights of eighteen feet and a spread of twenty feet have been reached in twenty years
- Branches form a rounded head wider than tall
- Has superior winter hardiness – The original tree has been field tested for twenty years and has been completely winter-hardy in USDA Plant Hardiness Map Zone 6a.



How to plant a tree



Living with Nature

What to do about wild rabbits

The timid rabbit occasionally nibbles plants in the garden but usually lives unnoticed on the fringes of our yards.

Common problems and solutions

Here today, gone tomorrow is one way to describe rabbits in suburbia. Given the many predators who make meals of rabbits,



their populations can rise and fall dramatically over the course of a year. Sometimes, by doing nothing and letting nature take its own course, the homeowner sees the same result as they might from trying to "control" rabbits.



Rabbits eating plants

First things first: Make sure a rabbit is the culprit. Deer eat many of the same things rabbits do and are also common around yards. Twigs browsed by rabbits look neatly clipped but plants browsed by deer appear ragged and torn. You may see the easily recognizable tracks of rabbits in soft soil or snow. And you may see the rabbits themselves—a dead giveaway to their presence—most often near dawn and dusk.

Barriers for flowers and vegetables—A well-constructed fence is the most effective way to protect plants. Two-foot high chicken wire supported by posts every six to eight feet is strong enough to keep rabbits out. Stake the bottom securely to the ground to prevent rabbits from pushing underneath it. Movable fence panels can protect the garden right after the first planting, when damage is likely to be most severe, and go in the shed the rest of the year. Some years, you won't need the panels at all, given the ups and downs of rabbit populations. New plantings can be protected individually under plastic jugs that have the bottom cut out. These also serve as mini-greenhouses in spring when nights are still cool. Other protection may need to be provided once the jugs come off.

Barriers for trees—Commercial tree wrap or plastic tree guards can keep rabbits from nibbling bark. Cylinders of hardware cloth (stand on their own) or poultry wire (need staking) can work as well. These barriers should be as high as usual snow depth plus eighteen inches. Young trees and saplings

are more vulnerable so focus on protecting them.

Rabbits may reach low-hanging branches. A homemade barrier can encircle around them as well. Or prune and leave the trimmings on the ground away from valued trees as a decoy food. Rabbits prefer twigs and buds to the bark of the trunk and will eat these instead if they are easy to reach.

Repellents—In some places, fencing won't be practical or damage will be so slight that a fence isn't cost effective. Then chemical repellents can protect small plots and individual plants. Don't use a repellent on plants that people will eat unless the label specifies it is safe to do so.

Scare Devices—Sometimes, scare tape or balloons might frighten rabbits away from an area. The pinwheels sold to repel moles might provide a look scary to rabbits as well.

Habitat Modification—Remove cover (vine thickets, tall grass, and shrub cover) around gardens and orchards so rabbits don't have escape cover. They will spend less time—and eat less food—where they feel unsafe. Think, however, about the potential negative effects on other species that could benefit from a naturalized back yard.



Does that rabbit need help?

Mothers feeds baby rabbits only twice a day—at dawn and dusk. Baby rabbits found alone in a nest are usually not orphans.

If a nest has been disturbed, put it back together and cover the babies with the grass that originally covered them. To check if the mother is coming to care for them, place several lengths of yarn (small branches work, too) in a grid pattern over the nest. If the grid is disturbed after the next dawn or dusk, the mother is still caring for the youngsters.

Baby rabbits leave the nest when they're 3 weeks old and about the size of a chipmunk. If you find a chipmunk-sized but fully-furred rabbit with eyes open, ears erect, and the ability to hop, she is meant to be on her own. As small and helpless as she may look, she's not an orphan and doesn't need your help. You can prevent harm to baby rabbits by checking your yard carefully for rabbit nests before you mow. Do this especially if you've let the grass get taller than usual.



Eggheads with cress (or use grass seed) hair

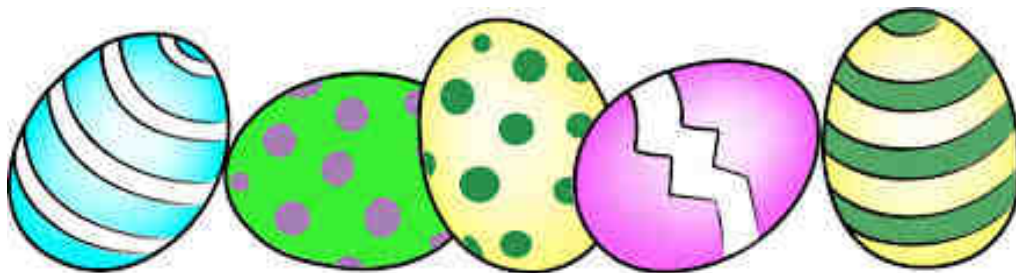


You will need: empty egg shells (try to just break off the top to empty them, so you have a good size shell left to use), felt pens, stick-on wobbly eyes (optional), cotton wool, cress seeds, an empty egg box.

To make them:

1. Wash out the egg shells and sit them in the egg box to keep them steady (on a cotton wool cushion to raise them up a bit if you need to).
2. Draw on some crazy faces, using the goggly eyes if you've got some. You could do self-portraits or funny faces (or maybe that's one and the same thing?)
3. Put some cotton wool inside the shells and dampen them with some water.
4. Sprinkle cress seeds all over the cotton wool – good coverage will give you a full head of hair.
5. Pop them on a windowsill and wait for the hair to sprout. It'll only take a couple of days.
6. Add a little bit of water if the cotton wool dries out, but not too much.

You can also use grass seeds for this craft. This allows you to give the eggheads a haircut which will grow back ready for a restyle. However you can't put the grass on your sandwiches!



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