Snowbell, Japanese

Styrax japonicus

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a



Snowbell, Japanese in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Snowbell, Japanese flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A very dainty and woodsy small tree, featuring the most delicate white bell-shaped flowers which hang loosely from the horizontally spreading branches in early spring; needs moist, organic soil and some shelter, does well in part shade

Ornamental Features

Snowbell, Japanese features dainty lightly-scented nodding white bell-shaped flowers hanging below the branches from mid to late spring. It has green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn an outstanding orange in the fall. The fruits are showy gray drupes displayed from late summer to late fall. The smooth khaki (brownish-green) bark adds an interesting dimension to the landscape.

Landscape Attributes

Snowbell, Japanese is a multi-stemmed deciduous tree with a stunning habit of growth which features almost oriental horizontally-tiered branches. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This tree will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Invasive

Snowbell, Japanese is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent

Planting & Growing

Snowbell, Japanese will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.



Snowbell, Japanese
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This tree does best in full sun to partial shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth. It is very fussy about its soil conditions and must have rich, acidic soils to ensure success, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Clean up Rating (1-5) 1=least effort 5=most effort

Clean Up Rating (3): Snowbells produce 1/2 inch oval capsules that mature in late summer. Clean up is blow or rake debris onto the lawn and mow or bag.