

Special plants *Pat Mansey*

Halesia carolina

Commonly called 'Snowdrop Tree' for obvious reasons. It is a large shrub or small tree, very beautiful in spring when it is draped with clusters of white bell-shaped flowers hanging in groups of 2-5 along the branches. The flowers are borne in spring, before the leaves fully develop, and last for several weeks. They are followed by 4-winged green fruit, and the leaves turn yellow in autumn.



Halesia carolina is fully hardy, suitable for a woodland garden, needs well drained neutral to acid soil and partial shade, and makes a striking spectacle.

Nomocharis aperta

Another woodland plant, but very different in that it is a bulbous perennial. It is breathtakingly beautiful when flowering in late spring. The flowers hang down, flat saucer shaped, pale pink, with a ring of deep red speckles and blotches around the central boss. These flowers appear in racemes of 5-6 at the top of a 12 inch stem, and the leaves are lance-shaped and in whorls of 5 or 6 up the stem.

Nomocharis aperta needs cool woodland and humus rich, moist, acid soil. Despite its delicate appearance, this gorgeous plant is fully hardy.

