**Styrax japonicus** ‘Pink Chimes’: ‘Pink Chimes’ Japanese Snowbell

Edward F. Gilman and Dennis G. Watson

---

**Introduction**

This cultivar of Japanese snowbell is a small deciduous tree that slowly grows from 20 to 30 feet in height and has rounded canopy with a horizontal branching pattern. With lower branches removed, it forms a more vase-shaped patio-sized shade tree. The smooth, attractive bark has orange-brown interlacing fissures adding winter interest to any landscape. The pink, bell-shaped, drooping flower clusters of ‘Pink Chimes’ are quite showy in May to June.

---

**General Information**

**Scientific name:** *Styrax japonicus*

**Pronunciation:** STY-racks juh-PAWN-ih-kuss

**Common name(s):** ‘Pink Chimes’ Japanese snowbell

**Family:** Styracaceae

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6A through 8A (Fig. 2)

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** little invasive potential

**Uses:** trained as a standard; parking lot island < 100 sq ft; parking lot island 100-200 sq ft; parking lot island > 200 sq ft; tree lawn 3-4 feet wide; tree lawn 4-6 feet wide; tree lawn > 6 ft wide; specimen; street without sidewalk; deck or patio; container or planter; sidewalk cutout (tree pit); highway median

**Availability:** not native to North America

---


2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department; and Dennis G. Watson, former associate professor, Agricultural Engineering Department, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For more information on obtaining other UF/IFAS Extension publications, contact your county’s UF/IFAS Extension office.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, UF/IFAS Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A & M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Nick T. Place, dean for UF/IFAS Extension.
**Description**

Height: 20 to 30 feet  
Spread: 15 to 25 feet  
Crown uniformity: symmetrical  
Crown shape: round, vase  
Crown density: moderate  
Growth rate: slow  
Texture: medium

**Foliage**

Leaf arrangement: alternate (Fig. 3)  
Leaf type: simple  
Leaf margin: sinuate/undulate, entire, serrate  
Leaf shape: oblong, elliptic (oval)  
Leaf venation: pinnate, brachidodrome  
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous  
Leaf blade length: less than 2 inches, 2 to 4 inches  
Leaf color: green  
Fall color: yellow, red  
Fall characteristic: not showy

**Flower**

Flower color: pink  
Flower characteristics: showy

**Fruit**

Fruit shape: oval, round  
Fruit length: less than .5 inch, .5 to 1 inch  
Fruit covering: fleshy  
Fruit color: green  
Fruit characteristics: does not attract wildlife; not showy; fruit/leaves not a litter problem

**Trunk and Branches**

Trunk/bark/branches: branches droop; showy; typically multi-trunked; thorns  
Pruning requirement: little required  
Breakage: resistant  
Current year twig color: green  
Current year twig thickness: thin

**Wood specific gravity:** unknown

**Culture**

Light requirement: full sun, partial sun, or partial shade  
Soil tolerances: clay; sand; loam; acidic; slightly alkaline; well-drained  
Drought tolerance: moderate  
Aerosol salt tolerance: moderate

**Other**

Roots: not a problem  
Winter interest: yes  
Outstanding tree: yes  
Ozone sensitivity: unknown  
Verticillium wilt susceptibility: unknown  
Pest resistance: free of serious pests and diseases

**Use and Management**

It is an excellent small patio tree where the flowers and interesting bark can be viewed up close; however, the flowers attract tremendous numbers of bees and one should be cautious about approaching the plant at that time. Japanese snowbell also makes a wonderful addition to the mixed shrubbery border. Due to its small stature and vase-shape, in moist soil it can make a nice street tree where overhead space is limited. The fruit is somewhat showy and may cause a small litter problem for a short time in the fall. Fall leaf color is unreliable.

Snowbell prefers a peaty, acid soil that is moist but not waterlogged. In colder areas (USDA hardiness zone 5b), locate *Styrax japonicus* in an area protected from winter winds. In the south (USDA hardiness zones 7 and 8) locate it so it receives only part sun during the summer to promote best growth and appearance. This cultivar displays wonderful pink flowers as far south as zone 7b (perhaps in zone 8a).

Other cultivars include: 'Carillon' grows about one-foot per year, has a weeping habit, can be staked to encourage weeping habit; 'Crystal'—upright to fastigiate habit, black green foliage, crisp white flowers with purple pedicels (zone 5); 'Issai'—cold hardy to zone 6, grows faster than species and roots easily;

Propagate by softwood cuttings in summer.

**Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases of major concern except ambrosia beetle which can infest stressed trees. It is almost pest free.