

MORE THAN A PRETTY FACE

Native Alternatives to Invasive Exotics

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Attributes of Landscape Plants

Flowers

Trillium grandiflorum (Large-flowered Trillium)

Cypripedium pubescens (Yellow Lady Slipper)

Colorful/Textural Foliage

Adiantum pedatum (Maidenhair Fern)

Polystichum acrostichoides (Christmas Fern)

Decorative Bark

Betula nigra (River Birch)

Decorative Fruits

Euonymus americanus (Hearts-a-Bustin')

Branching Structure

Fagus (Beech)

Native Plant

A plant that occurs in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat without direct or indirect human actions

Invasive Plant

Defined by Executive Order 13112 (1999) as a species that is nonnative (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health

Aggressive Plant or Thug

A plant that thrives under cultivation and out-competes other plants in a garden situation

Box: What Makes a Plant Invasive?

- ~~From the plant thrive under~~ Rapid growth to maturity
- Prolific seed production
- Highly successful seed dispersal, germination and colonization
- Rampant vegetative spread
- Ability to outcompete or displace native species
- High cost of removal or control

Box: Checklist for Choosing Native Alternatives

- Is the plant regionally native?
- Will the plant thrive under the same site conditions and in the same hardiness zone?
- Are the flowers and/or fruit the same color?
- Is the inflorescence the same shape and size?
- Does the plant bloom at the same time?
- Is the foliage similar in form, texture and color?
- Is the overall shape and size of the plant similar?
- Does the plant have multiple seasons of interest?
- Is the root system similar?
- Is the plant easy to establish and maintain?

ORNAMENTALS

The Garden

The Problem

Plants with Showy Flowers

Rosaceae	Rose Family
Rosa multiflora	Multiflora Rose
Physocarpus opulifolius	Ninebark
Hydrangea arborescens	Smooth Hydrangea
Crataegus species	Hawthorn

Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family
Viburnum dilatatum	Linden Viburnum
Viburnum prunifolium	Black Haw
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood
Viburnum nudum	Smooth Witherod

Loganiaceae	Logania Family
Buddleja davidii	Butterfly Bush
Cephalanthus occidentalis	Button Bush
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet

Rosaceae	Rose Family
Pyrus calleryana	Callery Pear
Amelanchier species	Shadbush
Carpinus caroliniana	Musclewood
Cladrastis kentuckea	Yellowwood
Cotinus obovatus	American Smoke Tree
Crataegus species	Hawthorne
Oxydendrum arboreum	Sourwood
Prunus virginiana	Choke Cherry

Iridaceae	Iris Family
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Flag Iris
Iris versicolor	Blue Flag
Iris virginica	Virginia Blue Flag

Plants for Foliage Effect

Celastraceae	Bittersweet Family
Euonymus alatus	Winged Euonymus
Aronia arbutifolia	Red Chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa	Black Chokeberry
Fothergilla gardenii	Witch Alder
Itea virginica	Virginia Sweetspire
Rhus copallina	Winged Sumac
Berberis thunbergii	Japanese Barberry
Ceanothus americanus	New Jersey Tea
Clethra alnifolia	Summersweet
Diervilla lonicera, sessilifolia	Bush Honeysuckle
Fothergilla gardenii	Witch Alder
Ilex verticillata 'Sprite'	Winterberry Holly
Itea virginica	Virginia Sweetspire
Myrica pensylvanica, cerifera	Bayberry, Wax Myrtle

Oleaceae	Olive Family
Ligustrum species	Privet
Agarista poulifolia	Florida Leucothoe
Aesculus pavia	Red Buckeye
Hamamelis virginiana	Witch Hazel
Morella (Myrica) cerifera	Waxmyrtle
Prunus caroliniana	Carolina Cherrylaurel
Prunus virginiana	Choke Cherry

Poaceae	Grass Family
Miscanthus sinensis	Japanese Silver Grass
Saccharum giganteum, contortum	Erianthus
Panicum virgatum	Switchgrass
Sorghastrum nutans	Indiangrass

Plants with Decorative Fruits

Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family
Viburnum dilatatum	Linden Viburnum
Aronia arbutifolia	Red Chokeberry
Callicarpa americana	American Beautyberry
Ilex montana, verticillata	Mountain, Winterberry Holly
Sambucus pubens	Scarlet Elder

<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Maple-leaf Viburnum
<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	Smooth Witherod
<i>Viburnum trilobum</i>	Highbush Cranberry

Caprifoliaceae Honeysuckle Family

<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur Honeysuckle
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry
<i>Cornus racemosa, stolonifera</i>	Gray, Red osier Dogwood
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush
<i>Ilex decidua, verticillata</i>	Possumhaw, Winterberry
<i>Sambucus canadensis, pubens</i>	Elderberry
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood

Vitaceae Grape Family

<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Porcelain Berry
<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>	Peppervine
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper

Celastraceae Bittersweet Family

<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	American Bittersweet

Elaeagnaceae Russian Olive Family

<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn Olive
<i>Amelanchier species</i>	Shadbush
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	Groundsel Tree
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	Musclewood
<i>Croton alabamensis</i>	Alabama Croton
<i>Myrica pensylvanica, cerifera</i>	Wax Myrtle
<i>Prunus angustifolia</i>	Chickasaw plum

Plants as Problem Solvers

Fabaceae Pea Family

<i>Coronilla (Securigera) varia</i>	Crown Vetch
<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	Bearberry
<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	Spreading Dogbane
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled Milkweed
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken

NON-ORNAMENTALS

Brassicaceae Mustard Family

<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
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Asteraceae Aster Family

<i>Centaurea strobe</i>	Spotted Knapweed
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Dioscoreaceae	Yam Family	
	Dioscorea oppositifolia	Chinese Yam
Fabaceae	Pea Family	
	Lespedeza cuneata	Chinese Lespedeza
Poaceae	Grass Family	
	Microstegium vimineum	Stiltgrass
Polygonaceae	Smartweed Family	
	Reynoutria japonica (Polygonum cuspidatum)	Japanese Knotweed
	Persicaria (Polygonum) perfoliata	Mile-a-Minute
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
	Ranunculus ficaria	Lesser Celandine
Rosaceae	Rose Family	
	Rosa multiflora	Multiflora Rose
Simaroubaceae	Quassia Family	
	Ailanthus altissima	Tree of Heaven

Other Plants Grown As Ornamentals That May Be Invasive

Acer platanoides	Myosotis scorpiodes
Akebia quinata	Paulownia tomentosa
Albizzia julibrissin	Pennisetum setaceum
Arundo donax	Perilla frutescens
Caragana arborescens	Phalaris arundinacea
Cortaderia selloana/jubata	Pinellia species
Cotoneaster species	Populus alba
Euonymus fortunei	Rhodotypos scandens
Euphorbia dulcis	Rubus phoenicolasius
Foeniculum vulgare	Salix species
Hedera helix	Sapium sebiferum
Hibiscus syriacus	Sorbus aucuparia
Lonicera japonica	Tamarix species
Lotus corniculatus	Ulmus pumila
Melilotus species	Ulmus parvifolia
Lysimachia nummularia	Viburnum opulus, lantana, sieboldii
Miscanthus sacchariflorus	Vinca minor

For More information, visit:

Virginia Native Plant Society: <http://www.vnps.org/>

Virginia Department of Conservation:

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/invspinfo.shtml

National Invasive Species Information Center: <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>