



Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants

[More details at www.bbg.org/nativealternatives]

In conjunction with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's All-Region Guide *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*, the plants [on this web site] have been selected by the handbook's **author, C. Colston Burrell**, as native alternatives to invasive plants for use in gardens, yards, and natural plantings. The list is organized by horticultural plant group: trees, shrubs, vines, herbaceous plants, and grasses.

For each invasive species listed [on this web site], several natives are suggested as alternatives, along with their natural range in continental North America. Ideally, the alternative matches most or all of the invasive plant's desirable characteristics, such as flowers, fruit, fall color, and ease of care. The following checklist was used to select the recommended alternatives that most closely match the corresponding invasive species:

- Is the plant locally or regionally native?
- Are the flowers 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?
- Will it grow in the same hardiness zone and under the same site conditions?

The plants marked with an asterisk (*) [on the web site] are profiled in more detail in the *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants* handbook. For additional guidance in choosing plants that do well in your region, refer to the [USDA Hardiness Zone map](#).

Some examples of Native Alternatives excerpted from the book and web site, in no particular order:

Invasive Species	Native Alternatives
Rose of Sharon (<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>)	Scarlet Mallow (<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>)
Fortune's Euonymus (<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>)	Bearberry (<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>)
Privets (<i>Ligustrum</i> spp., e.g. <i>L. amurense</i> , <i>L. japonicum</i> , <i>L. lucidum</i> , <i>L. vulgare</i> , etc.)	Blackhaw (<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>) Devil wood (<i>Osmanthus americanus</i>) Carolina Cherry Laurel (<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>)
Bush Honeysuckles (e.g. <i>Lonicera tatarica</i> , <i>L. maackii</i> , <i>L. morrowii</i> , and <i>L. xylosteum</i>)	Winterberry (<i>Ilex verticillata</i>) Spicebush (<i>Lindera benzoin</i>) Native Honeysuckle (<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>) Red Osier Dogwood (<i>Cornus sericea</i>)—this is native to No. VA; other parts of state should use Silky Dogwood, <i>Cornus amomum</i>
Heavenly Bamboo (<i>Nandina domestica</i>)	Florida leucothoe (<i>Agarista populifolia</i>) Yaupon holly (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>)
Yellow Flag Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)	Blue Flag Iris (<i>Iris versicolor</i>)

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Queen Anne's Lace (<i>Daucus carota</i>)	Hairy angelica (<i>Angelica venenosa</i>)
Crown vetch (<i>Coronilla varia</i>)	Whorled milkweed (<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>) Spreading dogbane (<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>)
Dame's Rocket (<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>)	Carolina phlox (<i>Phlox carolina</i>)
Oxeye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> or <i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>)	VA mountain mint (<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>) Wild Quinine (<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>) Robin's plantain (<i>Erigeron pulchellus</i>)
Baby's Breath (<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>)	Flowering spurge (<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>)
Weeping Willow (<i>Salix x sepulcralis</i> or <i>S. babylonica</i>)	Black Willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>)
Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleia davidii</i> and hybrids; also <i>B. lindleyana</i>)	Buttonbush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>) Sweet Pepperbush (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>)
Japanese Barberry (<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>)	Witch Alder (<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> or <i>F. major</i>) New Jersey Tea (<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>) VA Sweetspire (<i>Itea virginica</i>)
Cotoneaster (<i>Cotoneaster apiculatus</i> , <i>C. franchetii</i> , <i>C. microphyllus</i> , etc.)	Coralberry (<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>)
Russian olive (<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>)	Silky willow (<i>Salix sericea</i>)
Autumn olive (<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>)	Southern waxmyrtle or Bayberry (<i>Morella cerifera</i> or <i>Myrica cerifera</i>) American snowbell (<i>Styrax americanus</i>) Groundsel bush (<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>)
Winged euonymus (<i>Euonymus alatus</i>)	Black chokeberry (<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>) Highbush blueberry (<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>) Fragrant sumac (<i>Rhus aromatica</i>)
Mimosa or Silk Tree (<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>)	Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i>)
Princess Tree (<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>)	Northern catalpa (<i>Catalpa speciosa</i>)
Foxglove (<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>)	Mountain Hollyhock (<i>Iliamna rivularis</i>)
Fennel (<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>)	Golden Alexanders (<i>Zizia aurea</i>)
Tree of Heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>)	Yellow wood (<i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>)
Weeping Lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>)	Prairie Dropseed (<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>)
Bermuda grass (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>)	Red fescue (<i>Festuca rubra</i>)
Tall fescue (<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>)	Purpletop (<i>Tridens flavus</i>)
Water hyacinth (<i>Eichornia crassipes</i>)	Pickerel Weed (<i>Pontederia cordata</i>)
English ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	Allegheny spurge (<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>)
Jasmine (<i>Jasminum dichotomum</i> and <i>J. fluminense</i>)	Carolina Jessamine (<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>)
Japanese honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera japonica</i>)	Coral honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)
Porcelain berry (<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>)	Peppervine (<i>Ampelopsis arborea</i>)
Oriental bittersweet (<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>)	American bittersweet (<i>Celastrus scandens</i>)
Japanese wisteria (<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>) and Chinese wisteria (<i>W. sinensis</i>)	American wisteria (<i>Wisteria frutescens</i> or <i>macrostachya</i>)