

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

Best Bets: Plants
for Particular Uses
in the Mid-Atlantic

**INVASIVE PLANTS: Chinese,
Japanese & Siberian Crabapples
(*Malus hupehensis*, *M. floribunda*,
M. baccata)**



Long favored for their spring flowering displays, some non-native crabapple trees introduced into the North America from Asia and Siberia as ornamental trees and rootstock have escaped from cultivation and naturalized in parts of Canada and south into Missouri and Virginia. Three *Malus* species have been identified as invasive in natural areas in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

Problems	Japanese Crabapple & Sweet Crabapple
Escape cultivation to woodland borders, disturbed meadows, abandoned orchards, and old homesteads	
Displace native species and dominate plant communities where established	
Can produce impenetrable thickets	
Produce abundant fruit and seed	
Seed dispersed over distance by birds and mammals	
Also reproduces vegetatively by suckering	
Can create litter problem beneath canopy	
Desired Characteristics	
Tree with spring blossoms and fruit	
Native Alternatives	
(Replacement for blossoms and fruit:)	
<i>Malus angustifolia</i> (Southern Crabapple)	
<i>Malus coronaria</i> (Sweet Crabapple)	
(Replacement for blossoms:)	
<i>Amelanchier aborea</i> (Downy Serviceberry)	
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> (Fringetree)	
<i>Cornus florida</i> (Flowering Dogwood)	
<p><i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i></p>	

Images by Wikimedia (top) and Elaine Mills, National Arboretum