

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants



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

INVASIVE PLANTS:

Japanese & Chinese Wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda* & *W. sinensis*)



These similar-looking exotic species were introduced from China in 1816 and Japan around 1830. Favored for their rapid growth, dense foliage, and fragrant blooms, they have been used extensively as decorative additions to porches, walls, and gazebos. Unfortunately, they are now reported as invasive in forested areas throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast, including Northern Virginia.

Problems	Chinese & American Wisteria
Grow on and over trees, girdling and killing them	
Decrease light to native plants in understory	
Create dense thickets, interfering with growth of new saplings	
Add weight to trees, making them susceptible to storm damage and breakage	
Spread vegetatively and are known to hybridize	
Can damage structures such as decks, facades of houses, windows, and gutters	
Difficult to remove due to massive trunks	
Desired Characteristics	
Vine with showy flowers and fragrance	
Native Alternatives	
(Replacement vines:)	
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i> (Cross-vine)	
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> (Trumpet Honeysuckle)	
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i> (American Wisteria)	
(Replacement plants for fragrance:)	
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> (Sweet Pepperbush)	
<i>Phlox divaricata</i> (Woodland Phlox)	
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i> (Pinxterbloom Azalea)	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington and Glencarlyn Library Community Garden



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