



Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANT: Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)



This native of the Mediterranean basin was introduced to North America in the 1700s as an ornamental. Although still commonly sold as a ground cover, this trailing vine can escape cultivation and spread rapidly into natural areas. It is classified as invasive throughout the eastern United States, including Arlington and Alexandria.

Problems	Periwinkle & Moss Phlox
Aggressive spreader to fields and roadsides	
Covers large areas of woodland understory, crowding out native herbaceous vegetation	
Impedes forest succession by affecting survival of tree seedlings	
Outcompetes desired garden plants	
May have allelopathic effect on native species	
Can extend to over 6 feet via rhizomes	
Can grow in deep shade and poor soil	
Fragments can root and form new plants	
No nutritional value to wildlife	
Desired Characteristics	
Trailing or mat-forming evergreen ground cover	
Native Alternatives	
Bearberry (<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>)	
Foamflower (<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>)	
Moss Phlox (<i>Phlox subulata</i>)	
Partridge-berry (<i>Mitchella repens</i>)	
Wild Pink (<i>Silene caroliniana</i>)	
Woodland Phlox (<i>Phlox divaricata</i>)	
<p><i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i></p>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington, Virginia