



# Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

## INVASIVE PLANTS: Asian Viburnums (*Viburnum* spp.)



A number of *Viburnum* species native to China and Japan were introduced to North America in the 1800s as ornamental shrubs, and they are still widely available commercially. Birds act as a major vector for the spread of their seeds beyond cultivation, and they are now reported as invasive in natural areas of Virginia, including the George Washington Memorial Parkway, Arlington, and Alexandria.

Problems	Linden Viburnum & Black Haw
Double-File ( <i>V. plicatum</i> ), Linden ( <i>V. dilatatum</i> ), Siebold ( <i>V. sieboldii</i> ), and Tea ( <i>V. setigerum</i> ) Viburnums are invasive	
Colonize a wide variety of habitats, including wetlands	
Infest forests and urban and suburban woodlands	
Can form dense thickets, suppressing native vegetation and reducing plant diversity	
Produce numerous fruits which are dispersed by birds	
Interbreed with native Highbush Cranberry ( <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> )	
Desired Characteristics	
Shrub with attractive fruit and fall color	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> (Red Chokeberry)	
<a href="#"><i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (Black Chokeberry)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Callicarpa americana</i> (American Beauty-berry)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Euonymus americanus</i> (Strawberry-bush)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Lindera benzoin</i> (Spicebush)</a>	
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i> (Maple-leaf Viburnum)	
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> (Arrow-wood)	
<a href="#"><i>Viburnum nudum</i> (Possum-haw)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> (Black Haw)</a>	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Elaine Mills, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and National Arboretum