

# Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

## INVASIVE PLANT:

### Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia  
Arlington • Alexandria • mgnv.org

Introduced from Asia as an ornamental in 1830, this shrub has been commonly cultivated for wildlife habitat and planted along roadsides for erosion control. Its high seed production, as well as its adverse affect on the nitrogen cycle, now threaten native plant communities in many national parks in Virginia. Both Arlington and Alexandria list the plant as invasive.

Problems	Autumn Olive & American Beauty-berry
One of the most troublesome invasive shrubs in the eastern U. S.	
Forms large stands, eradicating all vegetation beneath	
Abundant fruit contributes to undesirable spread by birds into natural habitats	
Quickly re-sprouts after fire or cutting	
Can grow on bare mineral substrates	
<b>Desired Characteristics</b>	
Drought-tolerant shrub with fruit	
<b>Native Alternatives</b>	
(More drought-tolerant:)	
<a href="#"><i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (Black Chokeberry)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Callicarpa americana</i> (American Beauty-berry)</a>	
<i>Comptonia peregrina</i> (Sweet-fern)	
<a href="#"><i>Lindera benzoin</i> (Spicebush)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (Common Ninebark)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> (Black Haw)</a>	
(Need more moisture:)	
<a href="#"><i>Ilex glabra</i> (Inkberry)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Ilex verticillata</i> (Winterberry)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (Highbush Blueberry)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Viburnum nudum</i> (Possum-haw)</a>	
<i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Massanutten and Glencarlyn Library Community Garden