

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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



INVASIVE PLANTS:

Bush Honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.)



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
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These Eurasian honeysuckles were introduced in the mid- to late-1800s as ornamentals for erosion control and wildlife cover. Although still sold in nurseries, their aggressive growth habit no longer makes planting them a good choice. They are among the most troublesome invasives in natural areas in Arlington and Alexandria.

Problems	Bush Honeysuckle & Sweet-shrub
Amur (<i>L. maackii</i>), Bell (<i>L. x bella</i>), Morrow's (<i>L. morrowii</i>), and Tatarian (<i>L. tatarica</i>) species are invasive	
Infest fields, forests, and urban areas	
Form dense thickets in forest understory, shading out native vegetation	
High germination rate of seeds dispersed by birds and small mammals	
Infestations from root sprouts	
Compete with natives for pollinators	
Popular with birds, but do not provide high-fat content of native berries for migration	
Desired Characteristics	
Shrub with fragrant flowers and showy fruit	
Native Alternatives	
(Replacements for fragrance:)	
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i> (Sweet-shrub)	
<i>Rosa palustris</i> (Swamp Rose)	
(Replacements for fruit:)	
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (Black Chokeberry)	
<i>Callicarpa americana</i> (American Beauty-berry)	
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> (Winterberry)	
<i>Lindera benzoin</i> (Spicebush)	
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> (Arrow-wood)	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington