

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANTS: Chinese & Siberian Elms (*Ulmus parviflora* & *U. pumila*)



These Asian natives were introduced in the 1860s for their hardiness, fast growth, and adaptability and are still sold as shade and windbreak trees. Their quickly-developing fruits can be dispersed by wind away from landscape plantings, and grasslands and stream banks are vulnerable to infestation. The trees are classified as invasive in 25 states, including Virginia, and are locally prolific.

Problems	Chinese Elm & River Birch
Chinese Elm competes with native species for water, nutrients, and space	
Tough root systems are difficult to eradicate	
Fast-growing Siberian Elm can invade and dominate prairies	
Tolerates wet conditions, invading stream banks	
Grows where other trees cannot	
Wind-borne seeds form thickets of hundreds of seedlings	
Older trees lose branches and become messy	
Desired Characteristics	
Medium-size landscape tree	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Acer rubrum</i> (Red Maple)	
<i>Betula nigra</i> (River Birch)	
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> (American Hornbeam)	
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> (Common Hackberry)	
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> (Fringetree)	
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> (Pagoda Dogwood)	
<i>Cornus florida</i> (Flowering Dogwood)	
<p><i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i></p>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington and Green Spring Gardens