



Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANT: Creeping Liriope (*Liriope spicata*)



Liriope spicata is native to China and Vietnam and was introduced to the United States as an ornamental. One of the most frequently planted ground covers, this aggressively spreading perennial has appeared in scattered infestations throughout the Southeast and has been identified as an emerging threat to natural areas in the Mid-Atlantic Region. In Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia both *L. spicata* and *L. muscari* are considered invasive.

Problems	Creeping Liriope & Plantain-leaved Sedge
Aggressive spreader in gardens, crowding out native and cultivated plants	
Infests abandoned home sites and woods adjacent to neighborhoods	
Creates monocultures and degrades natural habitats, displacing native plants and reducing support for wildlife	
Seeds spread by birds and mammals	
Runners travel under cement, making it difficult to contain	
Rhizomes spread through movement of soil	
Tolerates air pollution and drought and can grow in either sun or shade	
Difficult to eradicate	
Desired Characteristics	
Grass-like and/or evergreen ground cover	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Carex flaccosperma</i> (Meadow (Blue Wood) Sedge)	
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i> (Pennsylvania Sedge)	
<i>Carex plantaginea</i> (Plantain-leaved Sedge)	
<i>Packera aurea</i> (Golden Ragwort)	
<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> (Christmas Fern)	
<i>Salvia lyrata</i> (Lyre-leaf Sage)	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington, VA and U. S. National Arboretum