



Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANT: Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)



Japanese Honeysuckle, a species native to eastern Asia, is a perennial vine that climbs by twisting its stems around vertical structures. First introduced to this country in the early 1800s and enjoyed for its fragrant flowers and nectar, this ubiquitous invader now threatens forests and wetlands throughout the eastern half of the United States. Both Arlington County and Alexandria list it as invasive.

Problems	Japanese Honeysuckle & Carolina Jessamine
Very aggressive growth rate, overtopping and smothering shrubs and small trees	
Reduces light for photosynthesis of plants in forest understory	
Spreads by ground runners	
Dispersal by birds and small mammals of seeds with high germination rate	
Desired Characteristics	
Vine with fragrant flowers	
Native Alternatives	
(Replacement vines (most fragrant):)	
Bignonia capreolata (Cross-vine)	
Clematis virginiana (Virgin's-bower)	
Gelsemium sempervirens (Carolina Jessamine)	
Lonicera sempervirens (Trumpet Honeysuckle)	
(Replacement shrubs and trees for fragrance:)	
Calycanthus floridus (Sweet-shrub)	
Clethra alnifolia (Sweet Pepperbush)	
Magnolia virginiana (Sweetbay Magnolia)	
Rhododendron periclymenoides (Pinxterbloom Azalea)	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, Fairfax County and Glencarlyn Library Community Garden