

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants



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

INVASIVE PLANT:

Japanese Pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*)



Also known as Japanese Spurge, this vigorous plant was brought to the United States from eastern Asia as an ornamental ground cover. Although it is widely available at conventional garden centers, it is not a good choice for woodland gardens or stream banks as it can easily escape cultivation. It is reported as invasive in 15 states, including Virginia, and in nearby Rock Creek National Park.

Problems	Japanese Pachysandra & Allegheny Spurge
Has naturalized in Arlington, Virginia	
Forms dense mats, climbing over and killing other plants	
Creates monoculture, displacing native vegetation and providing little benefit to wildlife	
Spreads into woods and stream beds through underground stems and roots	
Must be contained by well-maintained edging to control spread from gardens	
Can harbor rats	
Difficult to eradicate	
Desired Characteristics	
Shrubby evergreen ground cover	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> (Green-and-Gold)	
<i>Geum fragarioides</i> (Barren Strawberry)	
<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i> (Allegheny Spurge)	
<i>Packera aurea</i> (Golden Ragwort)	
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> (Virginia-creeper)	
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro-Low' (Fragrant Sumac)	

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

Images by Elaine Mills, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and U. S. National Arboretum



Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.