

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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




INVASIVE PLANT:

Japanese Spiraea (*Spiraea japonica*)



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
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Also known as Japanese Meadowsweet, this ornamental shrub was first introduced from Asia around 1870 to 1880 due to its showy flowers. Its rapid spread when it escapes from cultivation crowds out native species in natural areas. It is now classified as invasive in the Mid-Atlantic states, including Virginia, and is on the list for Arlington County.

Problems	Japanese Spiraea & Steeplebush
Spreads rapidly over disturbed areas such as construction sites	
Creates dense colonies along streams, fields, and forests, displacing native plants	
Flowers profusely, producing large numbers of seeds dispersed by water	
Seeds remain viable for many years in soil making control difficult	
Desired Characteristics	
Shrub with showy flower clusters	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i> (New Jersey Tea)	
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> (Sweet Pepperbush)	
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> (Dwarf Fothergilla)	
<i>Itea virginica</i> (Virginia Sweetspire)	
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> (Mountain Laurel)	
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> (Common Ninebark)	
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i> (Pinxterbloom Azalea)	
<i>Spiraea alba</i> (Narrowleaf Meadowsweet)	
<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> (Steeplebush)	
<p><i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i></p>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Richmond and North Carolina Arboretum