

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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



INVASIVE PLANT:

Leatherleaf Mahonia (*Mahonia bealei*)



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
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Sometimes called Leatherleaf Holly, this distinctive evergreen shrub was introduced in the mid-1800s as an ornamental. Although still a popular landscape plant, it has increasingly spread into woodlands from Maryland to Florida, including in Rock Creek and Wolf Trap parks, and is now classified as invasive. It is on Arlington County's list of invasive plants.

Problems	Leatherleaf Mahonia & Inkberry
Spreads into woodlands from birds eating berries on ornamental plantings	
Colonizes by basal sprouts	
Forms dense thickets around old homesites and in wooded areas near cities	
Has advantage over native species because deer avoid browsing on it	
Tolerates many sites	
Prickly leaves make maintenance a challenge	
Desired Characteristics	
Evergreen shrub or tree with fruit	
Native Alternatives	
(Evergreen replacements with fruit:)	
<i>Ilex glabra</i> (Inkberry)	
<i>Ilex opaca</i> (American Holly)	
(Deciduous replacements with fruit:)	
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (Black Chokeberry)	
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> (Winterberry)	
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (Highbush Blueberry)	
<i>Viburnum nudum</i> (Possum-haw)	
<i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington