



Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANT: *Mimosa (Albizia julibrissin)*



Also known as Silk Tree or Silky Acacia, this Asian native was introduced from China in 1745 and has been cultivated as an ornamental because of its showy flowers. As a prolific seeder, it can escape cultivation and readily establish in natural areas. It has spread throughout the southeastern U. S. from Virginia to Louisiana, and is reported as invasive in Arlington, Alexandria, and a number of national parks including nearby Rock Creek.

Problems	Mimosa & Eastern Redbud
Grows vigorously and displaces native trees and shrubs in dense stands at forest edges	
Spreads along roadsides and in vacant lots in urban and suburban areas	
Degrades habitat along stream borders	
Seedpods float and spread along waterways and ditches	
Produces many seeds which sprout easily	
Tough seed pods remain viable for decades	
Spreads vegetatively with quick re-sprouting when trees are cut back	
Creates considerable messy, staining debris	
Desired Characteristics	
Small ornamental tree with showy flowers	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Aesculus pavia</i> (Red Buckeye)	
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> (Downy Serviceberry)	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> (Eastern Redbud)	
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> (Fringetree)	
<i>Cornus florida</i> (Flowering Dogwood)	
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (Witch Hazel)	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington