

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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


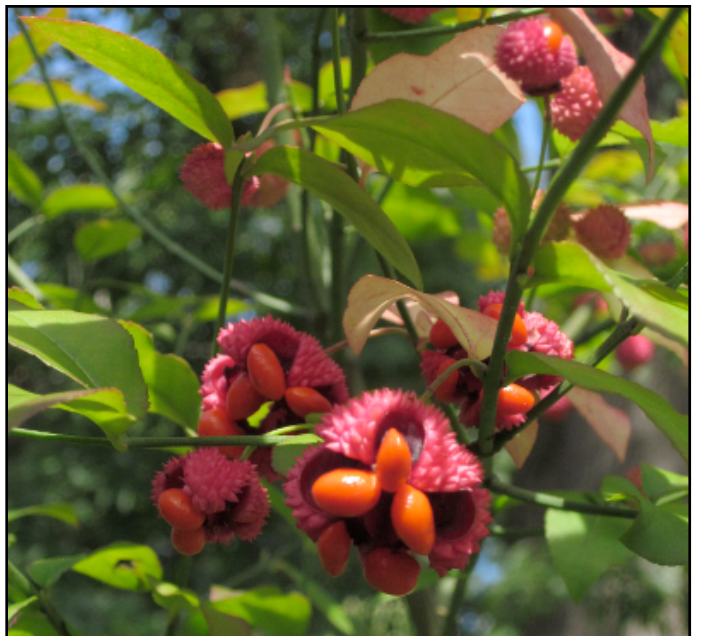
INVASIVE PLANT:

Nandina (*Nandina domestica*)



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
Arlington • Alexandria • mgnv.org

This popular evergreen shrub was originally introduced to the U. S. from Asia in 1804 as an ornamental plant and is still widely available in the nursery trade. Unfortunately, its colorful berries are one of the means of its escape from gardens, and it has now naturalized and invaded forest habitat in all southern states from Virginia across to Texas. Both Alexandria and Arlington list it as invasive.

Problems	Nandina & Strawberry Bush
Outcompetes native shrubs and understory herbaceous plants in woodlands	
Decreases diversity and affects wildlife	
Colonizes by root sprouts and rhizomes and spreads by animal- and gravity-dispersed seeds	
Can reproduce from root fragments	
Berries toxic to cats and cedar waxwings	
Desired Characteristics	
Mid-sized ornamental shrub with attractive foliage and fruit	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Callicarpa americana</i> (American Beauty-berry)	
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i> (Sweet-shrub)	
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> (Buttonbush)	
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i> (Sweet Pepperbush)	
<i>Euonymus americanus</i> (Strawberry Bush)	
<i>Ilex glabra</i> (Inkberry)	
<i>Ilex verticillata</i> (Winterberry)	
<i>Itea virginica</i> (Virginia Sweetspire)	
Yellowroot (<i>Xanthoriza simplicissima</i>)	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington and Glencarlyn Library Garden