

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants



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

INVASIVE PLANT:

Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)



The Norway Maple, a species native to Europe and Western Asia, was introduced to the United States as an ornamental shade tree. Extensively planted in urban areas and still widely sold in nurseries, it has become invasive along the east coast as far south as Tennessee and North Carolina and also in the Pacific Northwest.

Problems	Norway Maple & Sweet Gum
Invades forest edges from large numbers of wind-dispersed seeds	
Outcompetes native sugar maples and beeches	
Less wildflower diversity under dense canopy	
Increased risk of erosion due to lack of shrub and herbaceous layers	
Tolerance of poor soils and air pollution make it a dominant tree in urban areas	
Shallow roots cause damage to pavement and make it prone to root girdling and blowing down	
Fast-growing with weak wood, causing branches to break off in storms	
Desired Characteristics	
Large shade tree	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Acer rubrum</i> (Red Maple)	
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> (Sweetgum)	
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> (Black Gum)	
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> (Sourwood)	
<i>Quercus alba</i> (White Oak)	
<i>Quercus phellos</i> (Willow Oak)	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington and Glencarlyn Library Garden