

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANT: Princess Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)



Also known as Empress Tree, this native of China was imported to Europe in the 1830s and then introduced shortly after into the U. S. where it has been cultivated as an ornamental in parks and gardens. Touted as the fastest growing tree in the world, its aggressive spread into natural areas has caused it to be listed as invasive throughout much of the east coast, including Arlington and Alexandria.

Problems	Princess Tree & Carolina Silverbell
Invades forests, stream banks, and roadsides	
Seeds prolifically	
Seeds spread by wind, water, and gravity as far as two miles	
Seedlings flower within five to seven years	
Re-sprouts to survive fire, cutting, and bulldozing	
Extremely rapid growth results in splitting and breaking	
Causes maintenance problems along utility rights-of-way	
Desired Characteristics	
Shade tree with showy flowers	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Amelanchier arborea</i> (Downy Serviceberry)	
<i>Asimina triloba</i> (Pawpaw)	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> (Eastern Redbud)	
<i>Cornus florida</i> (Flowering Dogwood)	
<i>Halesia tetraptera</i> (Carolina Silverbell)	
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i> (Sweetbay Magnolia)	

Images by Elaine Mills, Rockville and Arlington