

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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



INVASIVE PLANT:

Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
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Noted for its exotic blooms, this shrub's native range is Asia where it is the national flower of South Korea. It was introduced sometime before 1600 as an ornamental with herbal applications. Although it is commonly planted along fence lines, this prolific seeder has escaped cultivation in much of the eastern U. S. and is reported as invasive in Virginia, specifically in both Arlington and Alexandria.

Problems	Rose of Sharon & Rose Mallow
Escapes from cultivation to colonize in natural areas, crowding out and displacing native plants	
Produces numerous seed pods, which are spread by wind	
Survives in harsh conditions	
Tolerant of drought, wet soil, and salt	
Very difficult to remove because of strong, deep tap root	
Even tiny volunteer seedlings are woody and difficult to uproot	
Must be deadheaded to control in garden	
Desired Characteristics	
Shrub with large ornamental blossoms	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i> (Scarlet Rose-mallow)	
<i>Hibiscus laevis</i> (Halberd-leaf Rose-mallow)	
<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> (Swamp Rose-mallow)	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington and Meadowlark Botanical Gardens