

# Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

## INVASIVE PLANT:

### Sweet Autumn Clematis (*Clematis terniflora*)



Also known as Sweet Autumn Virginsbower, this ornamental species was introduced from Japan and China and is still widely sold in the nursery trade. It produces tremendous amounts of seed, allowing it to escape from cultivation into fencerows and roadsides where it forms a dense tangle that can smother native vegetation. It is reported as invasive in the eastern half of the U. S., in Arlington and Alexandria, and in nearby national parks.

Problems	Sweet Autumn Clematis & Virgin's-bower
Invades forest edges, rights-of-way, and urban green spaces, especially near creeks	
Climbs up to 20 feet to engulf existing vegetation, even smothering fully-grown trees	
When lacking support structures, sprawls over wide areas choking out any vegetation	
Grows extremely vigorously	
Can tolerate partial shade and is semi-evergreen	
Produces vast quantities of wind-dispersed seeds	
Re-sprouting from underground root systems makes removal difficult	
<b>Desired Characteristics</b>	
Vine with attractive, fragrant flowers	
<b>Native Alternatives</b>	
<a href="#"><i>Bignonia capreolata</i> (Cross-vine)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Clematis virginiana</i> (Virgin's-bower)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i> (Carolina Jessamine)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> (Trumpet Honeysuckle)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Passiflora incarnata</i> (Passionflower)</a>	
	<p><i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i></p>

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington