

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANT:

White Mulberry (*Morus alba*)



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

This native of northern China was introduced in colonial times as a food source for silkworms. Although the silk industry did not succeed, the non-native tree thrived and has since spread throughout almost the entire U. S. It aggressively colonizes open areas, displacing native species, and is considered problematic in many states. Both Alexandria and Arlington list it as invasive.

Problems	White Mulberry & Cockspur Hawthorn
Aggressively invades natural areas such as fields, roadsides, and forests	
Hybridizes with native Red Mulberry and threatens to replace it	
Tolerates a wide variety of conditions	
Fruit widely distributed by birds and other wildlife	
Has messy fruit that stains and results in bird droppings	
Fruit not edible by humans	
Has deep taproot, making removal difficult	
Desired Characteristics	
Medium-size tree with fruit and attractive foliage	
Native Alternatives	
(Replacement for fruit:)	
<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> (Cockspur Hawthorn)	
<i>Prunus americana</i> (American Wild Plum)	
<i>Prunus serotina</i> (Black Cherry)	
(Replacement for size and foliage:)	
<i>Acer rubrum</i> (Red Maple)	
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> (Black Gum)	
<i>Sassafras albidum</i> (Sassafras)	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington