



Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANT: Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*)



Also known as Climbing Euonymus, this woody evergreen vine was introduced from China in 1907 as an ornamental ground cover, and it is still commercially available. Now forests are being degraded by its rapid spread as it smothers wildflowers and overtops trees. It is reported as invasive throughout most of the eastern United States including Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia.

Problems	Wintercreeper & Partridge-berry
Invades forest openings and margins	
Forms dense mat that smothers and kills native herbaceous plants	
Invasion results in monoculture and loss of plant diversity	
Climbs and kills tall trees and prevents growth of tree seedlings	
Seeds spread by birds, mammals, and water	
Thick web of roots is difficult to eradicate	
Root remnants can re-sprout and spread	
Evergreen and tolerates a broad range of environmental conditions	
Desired Characteristics	
Spreading evergreen ground cover or vine	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Bignonia capreolata</i> (Cross-vine)	
<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> (Trumpet Honeysuckle)	
<i>Mitchella repens</i> (Partridge-berry)	
<i>Packera aurea</i> (Golden Ragwort)	
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> 'Gro-Low' (Fragrant Sumac)	
<i>Wisteria frutescens</i> (American Wisteria)	
<p><i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i></p>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington, VA