



Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANT: Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)



This colorful ornamental perennial, introduced from Europe and still sold commercially for use in garden pools, has escaped from gardens and become an invasive noxious weed. It poses a threat to wetlands throughout much of North America, including Arlington and Alexandria, Virginia, as it colonizes in large numbers and competes with native shoreland vegetation.

Problems	Yellow Flag Iris & Virginia Blue Flag
Colonizes natural waterways and wetland areas	
Spreads in dense stands of connected plants, outcompeting and displacing native plants	
Compacts soil	
Clogs irrigation systems and streams	
Buoyant seeds spread long distances	
Seeds can germinate even after area burns	
Rhizomes can survive prolonged droughts	
Small sections of rhizomes establish new plants	
Little wildlife value, toxic to grazing animals	
Contact with resins can cause skin irritation	
Desired Characteristics	
Wetland perennial with colorful flowers	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Caltha palustris</i> (Marsh Marigold)	
<i>Iris versicolor</i> (Blue Flag)	
<i>Iris virginica</i> (Virginia Blue Flag)	
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i> (Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed Grass)	
<p><i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i></p>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington and Meadowlark Botanical Gardens