

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

INVASIVE PLANT:

Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)



This native of Japan, Korea, and China was introduced in the early 1800s and is currently a favored ornamental specimen plant. Due to its prolific seeding, this tree can escape from cultivation and spread into forests and along roadsides and streams. It is listed as a problem plant by the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council and is reported as invasive in nearby Rock Creek National Park.

Problems	Japanese Maple & Fringetree
Seeds prolifically and creates numerous volunteers in gardens	
Adapts to various conditions outside of cultivation	
Becomes highly variable in wild with green leaves and non-compact shape	
No predation by deer	
Over-promoted, widespread use increases probability of escape from cultivation	
Desired Characteristics	
Small tree with interesting foliage	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> (Eastern Redbud)	
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> (Fringetree)	
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> (Pagoda Dogwood)	
<i>Cornus florida</i> (Flowering Dogwood)	
<i>Cotinus obovatus</i> (American Smoketree)	
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> (Witch Hazel)	
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i> (Common Elderberry)	
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> (Red Elderberry)	

Images by Elaine Mills, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens