

Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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



INVASIVE PLANT:

Sawtooth Oak (*Quercus acutissima*)



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
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This native of eastern Asia was introduced in 1862 as an ornamental and gained favor during the past 50 years as a street tree and a source of food for small game such as turkeys. Its rapid growth allows it to outcompete native oaks, and the dispersal by animals of its numerous acorns has caused it to become a problem species in forests along the east coast. Alexandria lists it invasive and Arlington designates it as a threat.

Problems	Sawtooth Oak & White Oak
Escapes from street plantings to invade wild areas, displacing native plants	
Seeds into woodland edges, meadow habitats, and open areas	
Produces acorns as early as five years after sprouting	
Spreads from seeds produced in large numbers	
Fast-growing, outcompeting native oaks	
Tolerant of a wide range of moisture and temperature conditions	
Acorns are less nutritious for wildlife than acorns of native oaks	
Desired Characteristics	
Large shade tree with fruit (nuts)	
Native Alternatives	
Carya ovata (Shagbark Hickory)	
<i>Fagus grandifolia</i> (American Beech)	
Quercus alba (White Oak)	
<i>Quercus phellos</i> (Willow Oak)	
<i>Quercus rubra</i> (Red Oak)	

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington and Sunny Demonstration Garden