



# Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

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

## INVASIVE PLANT: Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*)



Originally from northern Africa and Australia, this perennial grass is frequently used in ornamental landscaping. Due to its high numbers of wind-blown seeds, it is escaping cultivation and becoming a weed problem in natural areas. It is identified as an emerging threat in the Mid-Atlantic Region and is listed as an invasive species in Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia.

Problems	Fountain Grass & Pink Muhly
Is escaping from cultivation to natural lands	
Forms dense stands	
Aggressively competes with native perennial grasses for water and nutrients	
Abundant seeds carried by animals, wind, and water	
Can become invasive in lawns	
Regrows rapidly after fire	
<b>Desired Characteristics</b>	
Grass with interesting seed heads and multi-season interest	
<b>Native Alternatives</b>	
<a href="#"><i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> (River Oats)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> (Purple Lovegrass)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> (Pink Muhly)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Panicum virgatum</i> (Switchgrass)</a>	
<a href="#"><i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (Indian Grass)</a>	
<p><i>developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria</i></p>	

Images by Elaine Mills, Norfolk Botanical Garden and Meadowlark Botanical Gardens