

## Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants You May Find at Your Local Nursery

<p><b>INVASIVE plant – Japanese Honeysuckle</b></p>  <p>Japanese Honeysuckle - <i>Lonicera japonica</i></p>	<p>Deciduous to semi-evergreen perennial vine. Rampant, twining vine is very difficult to control. Displaces native species by forming dense mats and outcompeting for light and nutrients. Spreads by rhizomes, above-ground runners and seeds.</p> <p>Native to Eastern Asia. Introduced to the US as an ornamental ground cover in 1806.</p> <p>Control of Japanese honeysuckle: Remove where possible and keep away from landscape plants. Because it is semi-evergreen, detect and manage when surrounding deciduous vegetation is dormant.</p>	
<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>Coral Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i></p> <p>Vigorous, native, twining vine. Height: 10-20' tall. Blooms: Trumpet-shaped scarlet to orange-red flowers from March-July. Flowers on new growth, prune after flowering. Needs support structure but can be allowed to sprawl as ground Cover. Nectar source of Ruby-throated Hummingbird.</p>	<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>Carolina Jessamine <i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i></p> <p>Native vine - state flower of South Carolina. Height: 20' if left untrained. Blooms: sweet scented, canary-yellow flowers from Feb - May. Flowers on new growth, prune after flowering. Needs support structure but can be allowed to sprawl as ground Cover. Attractive to many pollinators.</p>	<p><b>Native alternative</b></p>  <p>Crossvine <i>Bignonia capreolata</i></p> <p>Vigorous, native vine, climbs by tendrils. Height: 30' if left untrained. Evergreen to semi-evergreen. Reddish-purple leaf color in colder areas. Blooms: late winter to early spring. Early bloom season provides nice stopping point for migrating hummingbirds.</p>

Photos borrowed from the North Carolina State University Extension Webpage - through the [CCPL](#)  
Goochland Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

More alternatives, less vigorous growers: *Clematis crispa*, *Clematis glaucophylla*

**Photographs:**

- Japanese Honeysuckle - *Lonicera japonica*: Lucy Bradley – CC BY 4.0
- Coral Honeysuckle - *Lonicera sempervirens*: Susan Strine – CC BY 2.0
- Carolina Jessamine - *Gelsemium sempervirens*: Kai-Yan—Joseph-Wong CC BY-NC-SA 4.0
- Crossvine - *Bignonia capreolata*: Jim Lawrence – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

**Sources for purchasing native plants:**

Native Plant Nurseries in Virginia

- Hill House Farm and Nursery – Castleton, VA
- Hummingbird Hill Native Plant Nursery, - Charlottesville, VA
- Reedy Creek Environmental – Richmond, VA

Virginia Native Plant Society chapter plant sales - See VNPS Webpage for links to chapters

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden - Spring and fall plant sales

Online Resources:

- Prairie Moon Nursery
- Gardens of the Blueridge
- Prairie Nursery
- Direct Native Plants
- Mid- Atlantic Natives

And, if your favorite nursery does not have a large selection of native plants, ask them to get more.



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