

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

### INVASIVE plant – Japanese Honeysuckle



Japanese Honeysuckle - *Lonicera japonica*

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.

Native to Eastern Asia.  
Introduced to the US as an ornamental ground cover in 1806.

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.

### Native Alternative



Coral Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera sempervirens*

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.

### Native Alternative



Carolina Jessamine  
*Gelsemium sempervirens*

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.

### Native alternative



Crossvine  
*Bignonia capreolata*

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.

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

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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 Blue Ridge

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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