

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

<p><b>INVASIVE plant – Japanese Barberry</b></p>  <p>Japanese Barberry - <i>Berberis thunbergii</i></p>	<p>Dense, rounded shrub with numerous branches. Intolerant of high heat and is semi-deciduous.</p> <p>When birds eat berries, the plant's seeds are spread into woodlands, wetlands and fields. Vigorous growth outcompetes native plants.</p> <p>Native to Japan, introduced in the late 1800s as an ornamental plant. Widely used in landscapes due to deer resistance.</p> <p>Insect and disease problems: Susceptible to anthracnose, root rot, bacterial leaf spot, wilt, scale, barberry webworm and aphids.</p>	
<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>Witch Alder <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> or <i>F. major</i></p> <p>Small shrub: 3-5 ft tall and wide <i>F. major</i>: 6-15 ft tall and wide</p> <p>Blooms: fuzzy white terminal flower clusters in early spring</p> <p>Full sun - part shade</p> <p>Twiggy zig zag stems provide winter interest</p> <p>Orange to burgundy fall foliage</p>	<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>New Jersey Tea <i>Ceanothus americana</i></p> <p>Mounding to spreading form</p> <p>Low ground cover</p> <p>1-3 ft tall and 2-4 ft wide</p> <p>Blooms: terminal white flower clusters in late spring and summer</p> <p>Full sun part shade</p> <p>Tolerates dry to moist soil</p> <p>Yellow fall foliage</p>	<p><b>Native alternative</b></p>  <p>Virginia Sweetspire <i>Itea virginica</i></p> <p>Upright arching shrub</p> <p>Height: 4-8 ft tall and wide</p> <p>Blooms: fragrant white clusters midsummer</p> <p>Full sun to part shade</p> <p>Deciduous to semi-evergreen</p> <p>Flaming autumn color</p> <p>Green or red winter twigs</p>

Photos borrowed from the North Carolina State University Extension Webpage - through the [CCPL](#)

Prepared by Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

**Other Suggested Alternatives:**

Sweet Pepperbush - *Clethra alnifolia*  
Spicebush - *Lindera benzoin*  
Northern Bayberry - *Myrica pensylvanica*

**Photographs:**

Japanese Barberry - *Berberis thunbergii*: F.D.Richards – CC BY-SA 2.0  
Witch Alder - *Fothergilla gardenii* or *F. major*: Cathy DeWitt – CC BY 4.0  
New Jersey Tea - *Ceanothus americana*: H. Zeil – CC BY-SA 3.0  
Virginia Sweetspire - *Itea virginica*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

**Sources for purchasing native plants:**

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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