

## 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 Blooms: fuzzy white terminal flower clusters in early spring Full sun - part shade Twiggy zig zag stems provide winter interest 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 Low ground cover 1-3 ft tall and 2-4 ft wide Blooms: terminal white flower clusters in late spring and summer Full sun part shade Tolerates dry to moist soil Yellow fall foliage</p>	<p><b>Native alternative</b></p>  <p>Virginia Sweetspire <i>Itea virginica</i></p> <p>Upright arching shrub Height: 4-8 ft tall and wide Blooms: fragrant white clusters midsummer Full sun to part shade Deciduous to semi-evergreen Flaming autumn color 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 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.



Helping Our Planet Endure

Goochland-Powhatan  
Master Gardener Association

*Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.*

