

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

<p>INVASIVE plant – Italian Arum</p>  <p>Italian Arum – <i>Arum italicum</i></p>	<p>Forms dense groundcover that shades out native and other plants Can spread over great distances by birds who eat and then deposit the seeds Can survive harsh winters</p> <p>Native to Asia, Europe and North Africa Brought to the U.S. as an ornamental plant and is now considered invasive</p> <p>Control of Italian Arum Be careful when removing tubers. Small pieces can generate new plants Chemical treatments are not effective with this plant and may harm nearby plants.</p> <p>Poisonous to humans and animals</p>
<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Green Dragon <i>Arisaema dracontium</i></p> <p>Perennial Height: 12-15" Blooms: white, yellow, green April – June Unique flower shape Part to full shade Birds & mammals eat the berries. Attract pollinators and song birds Propagate by tuber division or seeds</p>	<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Canada Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i></p> <p>Low, colony-forming perennial Height: 6-8" Blooms: red, purple, brown April - June Part shade – full shade Larval host for Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly Pollen for flies and beetles Tolerated deer browsing, wet soils and heavy shade</p> <p>Non-native Alternative</p>  <p>Angel Wings - <i>Caladium</i></p> <p>Tropical plant – does not overwinter in Virginia – dig up tubers in the fall Height: about 12" Blooms: green, orange, pink Summer bloom Part sun – full shade Variable foliage color Rodents are attracted to the tubers. Plants are moderately toxic to humans and pets.</p>

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Prepared by Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

Other suggested alternatives:

Toothwort – *Cardamine diphylla*
Jack-in-the-Pulpit – *Arisaema triphyllum*
Allegheny Spurge – *Pachysandra procumbens*
May Apple – *Podophyllum peltatum*

Photographs:

Italian Arum – *Arum italicum*: James Gaither – CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
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Canada Wild Ginger - *Asarum canadense*; Michael Wolf – CC BY-SA 3.0
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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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