

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

### INVASIVE plant - Mimosa



Mimosa Tree or Silk Tree - *Albizia julibrissin*

Fast-growing, small to medium size deciduous tree, typically found along roadsides, grasslands, vacant lots and clearings. Fragrant, silky pink pom-pom like flowers. Limbs are weak and may be damaged by strong wind and storms. Native to Asia. Brought to the U.S. in 1745.

Will take advantage of disturbed land areas. Grows vigorously and can displace native trees and shrubs. Produces many seeds that contain a neurotoxin when ingested can be toxic to livestock and dogs.

### Native Alternative



Eastern Redbud  
*Cercis canadensis*

15-35 deciduous tree, one to several trunks, 15-35' umbrella-like crown  
Deep pink flowers April-May in tight clusters along the stems and branches  
Part shade to shade, loose, moist, sandy fertile and well-drained soils; tolerates clay soil  
Attracts native bees and tolerates deer browsing

### Native Alternative



Fringetree  
*Chionanthus virginicus*

12-20' deciduous tree.  
Multi-stemmed rounded habit, can be trained to single trunk. Full sun to part shade.  
Blooms: fragrant white fringe-like flower clusters in late springs. Showy blue-black fruits provide food source for birds. Clear yellow fall color.

### Native alternative



Sourwood  
*Oxydendrum arboreum*

20-30' deciduous tree  
Blooms: fragrant cream panicles from Jun-Jul for 3-4 weeks  
Showy red to reddish-purple fall color.  
Furrowed bark and seed capsules provide winter interest.

**Photographs:**

Mimosa Tree or Silk Tree - *Albizia julibrissin*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Eastern Redbud - *Cercis canadensis*: Dcrjsr – CC BY 3.0

Fringetree - *Chionanthus virginicus*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Sourwood - *Oxydendrum arboreum*: 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.*