

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

<p>INVASIVE plant - Mimosa</p>  <p>Mimosa Tree or Silk Tree - <i>Albizia julibrissin</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Eastern Redbud <i>Cercis canadensis</i></p> <p>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</p>	<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Fringetree <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Native alternative</p>  <p>Sourwood <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i></p> <p>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.</p>

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Goochland Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

Photographs:

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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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Master Gardener Association

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