

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

<p>INVASIVE plant – English Ivy</p>  <p>English ivy - <i>Hedera helix</i></p>	<p>Aggressive invader of forests and open areas. Climbs trees, envelopes branches, blocking out sunlight, eventually killing the tree. Fruit mildly toxic to birds.</p> <p>Native to Europe Brought to the U.S. by colonists in 1727 as a year-round ground cover. Spread across U.S.</p> <p>Control of English Ivy: For vines on the ground, pull them up and destroy them For vines climbing trees, cut all the vines on the lower trunks and let the vines in the trees to die. Do not pull down the vines because doing so will pull down branches and destroy the bark.</p>	
<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Virginia Creeper <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i></p> <p>Perennial vine: 12-36' Climbing vine or ground cover Blooms: white to green May-June Part shade - shade Fruit attracts many birds Larval host for several moth species Colorful fall foliage Deer resistant</p>	<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Allegheny spurge <i>Pachysandra procumbens</i></p> <p>Semi-evergreen perennial Low ground cover Height: 8-10" Blooms: white to pink March-May Fragrant Appear before leaves Full sun part shade - shade Grows slowly, will not take over</p>	<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Canadian Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i></p> <p>Deciduous perennial Low groundcover Height: 8-10" Blooms: red, green, purple April – June Part shade - shade Attracts butterflies Larval host for Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly</p>

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

Prepared by Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

Other suggested alternatives:

Crossvine - *Bignonia capreolata*

Photographs:

English ivy - *Hedera helix*: Donald Hobern – CC BY 2.0

Virginia Creeper - *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*: Kathleen Moore – CC BY 2.0

Allegheny spurge - *Pachysandra procumbens*: Jim Robbins – CC Y-NC-ND 4.0

Canadian Ginger - *Asarum canadense*: Michael Wolf – CC BY-SA 3.0

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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Goochland-Powhatan
Master Gardener Association

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