

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

<p><b>INVASIVE plant – Golden Bamboo</b></p>  <p>Golden Bamboo - <i>Phyllostachys aurea</i></p>	<p>Often planted to create or enhance privacy Used to create visual as well as noise barriers Fast-growing, woody rhizomatous perennial grass Adds 3-4' of new growth a year Forms dense monoculture that suffocates native plants thereby altering the whole ecosystem</p> <p>Native to Southeast China First to the U.S. in Alabama in 1882</p> <p><b>Control of Golden Bamboo</b></p> <p>Manual: cut shoots as close to the ground as possible and repeat several times during the growing season Chemical herbicides may be effective, but do follow the product instructions carefully.</p>	
<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>Giant Cane, American Bamboo <i>Arundinaria gigantea</i></p> <p>Evergreen perennial grass Height: 3-6' Blooms: green February - May Part shade Attracts birds and butterflies Larval host to many insect species Benefits wildlife, including warblers, turkeys, rabbits, deer and many others</p>	<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>Red or Black Chokeberry <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> or <i>A. melanocarpa</i></p> <p>Deciduous shrub Can form small clumps Height: 6-12' Blooms: white May Part shade Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds Fruit for birds and mammals</p>	<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>Indiangrass <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i></p> <p>Perennial grass Height: 3-8' Blooms: yellow August - October Sun or shade Grows in clumps Seeds for small mammals and birds – nesting materials Larval host for skipper butterflies Deer resistant</p>

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

Prepared by Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

**Other suggested alternatives:**

Big Bluestem - *Andropogon gerardii*  
Eastern Red Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*  
Switchgrass – *Panicum virgatum*  
Arborvitae - *Thuja occidentalis*  
Native vines on a trellis

**Photographs:**

Golden Bamboo - *Phyllostachys aurea*: Tomás Royo – CC BY 2.0  
Giant Cane, American Bamboo - *Arundinaria gigantea*: David J. Stang – CC BY-SA 4.0  
Black Chokeberry – *Aronia melanocarpa*: Randy Harter – CC BY 4.0  
Indiangrass - *Sorghastrum nutans*: Douglas Goldman, USDA – CC BY-NC 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 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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