

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

<p>INVASIVE plant – Chinese Silvergrass</p>  <p>Chinese Silvergrass – <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i></p>	<p>Commonly planted as an ornamental grass</p> <p>Invasive in southeastern US – categorized as invasive in 25 states and DC</p> <p>Most frequently found in large clumps along roadsides and disturbed areas</p> <p>Native to China (also Japan, South Korea & Taiwan)</p> <p>Introduced to the US for ornamental purposes</p> <p>In the late 1800s</p> <p>Has numerous cultivars in the US</p> <p>Control of Miscanthus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeated mowing as short as possible Digging it out; burning; grazing <p>Highly flammable – increases fire risk</p>	
<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Sugarcane Plumegrass <i>Saccharum giganteum</i></p> <p>Perennial grass</p> <p>Height: 6 -12'</p> <p>Blooms: golden to red</p> <p>October</p> <p>Flowers in 6 – 16" plumes</p> <p>Fruits – peach to silver</p> <p>Full sun, moist soil, heat tolerant</p> <p>Showy, dramatically tall grass</p> <p>Tolerates air pollution</p>	<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Pink Muhly Grass <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i></p> <p>Perennial grass</p> <p>Height: 1-3'</p> <p>Blooms: pink - purple</p> <p>October</p> <p>Full sun</p> <p>Stunning pink/lavender feathery floral display in fall</p> <p>Provides cover year round</p> <p>Seeds attract songbirds and small mammals</p>	<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Indian Grass, <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i></p> <p>Perennial grass</p> <p>Height: 3-5'</p> <p>Blooms: yellow</p> <p>August - October</p> <p>Sun, Part Shade, Shade</p> <p>Ornamental accent – grows in clumps</p> <p>Seeds attract birds and small mammals</p> <p>Nesting material</p> <p>Deer resistant</p>

Photos borrowed from the North Carolina State University Extension Webpage – through the [CCPL](#)
Prepared by Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

Additional suggested Alternatives:

Purple Lovegrass - *Eragrostis spectabilis*
Big Bluestem - *Andropogon gerardii*,
Bottlebrush Grass - *Elymus hystrix*
Switchgrass - *Panicum virgatum*
Little Bluestem - *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Photographs:

Chinese Silvergrass – *Miscanthus sinensis*: Cathy DeWitt-CC BY 4.0
Sugarcane Plumegrass - *Saccharum giganteum*: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service bugwood.org – CC BY 3.0
Pink Muhly Grass - *Muhlenbergia capillaris*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0
Indian Grass - *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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Goochland-Powhatan
Master Gardener Association

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