

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

<p><b>INVASIVE plant – Water Hyacinth</b></p>  <p>Water Hyacinth - <i>Pontederia crassipes</i></p>	<p>Free floating aquatic plant - invades lakes, ponds, rivers, marshes, and other wetland habitats</p> <p>Forms floating mats that cut off light to underwater environment</p> <p>Dense impenetrable mats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-can double in size in about two weeks</li> <li>-interfere with boating and fishing</li> </ul> <p>Depletes oxygen levels</p> <p>Native to South America</p> <p>Brought to the U.S. in the early 1884 as an ornamental plant – showy purple flowers</p> <p>Control of Water Hyacinth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibited in some states</li> <li>Small infestations can be pulled by hand</li> <li>Do not plant this!</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>Pickerel Weed <i>Pontederia cordata</i></p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Height: 1-3'</p> <p>Blooms: white, blue, purple</p> <p>June – September</p> <p>Sun - part shade</p> <p>Water garden, bog, pond</p> <p>Seeds for waterfowl</p> <p>Attracts dragonflies</p>	<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>American Swamp Lily <i>Saururus cernuus</i></p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Height: 1-3'</p> <p>Blooms: white</p> <p>April-August</p> <p>Part shade, shade</p> <p>Moist, wet soils, mud, water gardens, bogs</p> <p>Valued by wood ducks</p> <p>Deer Resistant</p>	<p><b>Native Alternative</b></p>  <p>American White Water Lily <i>Nymphaea odorata</i></p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Height: 1'</p> <p>Blooms: white</p> <p>March-October</p> <p>Aromatic</p> <p>Sun – Part Shade - Shade</p> <p>Pond or shallow water</p> <p>Seeds for waterfowl &amp; mammals</p>

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

Prepared by Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

**Other suggested alternatives:**

Broadleaf Cattail - *Typha latifolia*  
Lizard's Tail – *Saururus cernuus*

**Photographs:**

Water Hyacinth - *Pontederia crassipes*: Wouter Hagens – CC0  
Pickerel Weed - *Pontederia cordata*: Simon Pierre Barette – CC BY-SA 3.0  
American Swamp Lily - *Saururus cernuus*: Suzanne Cadwell – CC BY-NC 4.0  
American White Water Lily - *Nymphaea odorata*: Kurt Stuber – 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  
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