

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

<p>INVASIVE plant – Pampas Grass</p>  <p>Pampas Grass – <i>Cortaderia selloana</i></p>	<p>Commonly planted as an ornamental grass 6-13' high, roots can spread 13' in diameter and 11' depth. Wind-dispersed seeds can be found up 20 miles from parent plant. Each flower head can produce up to 100,000 seeds. Native to South America Forms dense stands that can quickly become a fire hazard. Caution: The blades of this grass have very sharp edges. Wear gloves and protective clothing when working with this plant. Control: Use chain saw or weed-eater to expose the crown; dig out crown with pick axe.</p>	
<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Sugarcane Plumegrass <i>Saccharum giganteum</i></p> <p>Perennial grass Height: 6 -12' Blooms: golden to red October Flowers in 6 – 16" plumes Fruits – peach to silver Full sun, moist soil, heat tolerant Showy, dramatically tall grass Tolerates air pollution</p>	<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i></p> <p>Perennial grass 3-7' tall Blooms: Pink-tinged branched flower panicles from Jun - Oct Full sun Slow spread by rhizomes Remains attractive all year long. Seeds attract birds and mammals</p>	<p>Native Alternative</p>  <p>Indian Grass <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i></p> <p>Perennial grass Height: 3-5' Blooms: yellow August - October Sun, Part Shade, Shade Ornamental accent – grows in clumps Seeds attract birds and small mammals Nesting material 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:

Purple Lovegrass, *Eragrostis spectabilis*,
Pink Muhly Grass *Muhlenbergia capillaris*

Photographs:

Pampas Grass – *Cortaderia selloana*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0
Sugarcane Plumegrass - *Saccharum giganteum*: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org – CC BY 3.0
Switchgrass - *Panicum virgatum*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0
Indian Grass - *Sorghastrum nutans*: Douglas Goldman, USDA – DD 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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