

GPMGA's HOPE Initiative Invasive Plants Team's Project Goes on the Road

One of our first initiatives under the HOPE umbrella was to create a document that provides information about native alternatives to invasive plants that are still available for sale in our nurseries. It features two dozen of the most popular invasive plants, and for each it features three native plants that are good alternatives along with a list of other possibilities. Many of us innocently planted invasive plants before we knew they would be harmful and are now in the process of systematically replacing them. This document can be very helpful in that process.

Unfortunately, gardeners can still purchase invasive plants! The Virginia legislature has been resistant to dealing with this problem, but they finally passed a law that will require nurseries to label invasive plants starting next year, so that responsible gardeners will be able to make good decisions. But invasive plants will come off the shelves only in the most responsible nurseries.



Turns out that this GPMGA publication is quite popular far beyond the work of our own EMG unit. It was a featured exhibit at the Virginia Master Gardeners Association's booth at the 2024 Virginia State Fair (pictured with samples of invasive plants). On Memorial Day this year the Northern Neck PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) used our publication as the centerpiece for their booth at the

Strawberry Festival. And, best of all, the Hanover Master Gardener volunteers are going to use our publication at their Farmers' Markets and Plant Clinics this summer. One of the Hanover volunteers recently hung out with GPMGA volunteers at the Powhatan Farmers' Market when she picked up copies of the document.



You, too, may find [this document](#) useful and can find a complete version on our Webpage. Authors of the document are GPMGA volunteers, Nancy Glasheen, Pat Lust and Katrina McIntosh.