

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

INVASIVE plant – Rose of Sharon



Rose of Sharon or Althea - *Hibiscus syriacus*

8-12' high deciduous shrub, erect, spreading habit with upright branches.
Late to leaf, prefers hot weather.
Showy flowers in summer, range from white to reddish-purple.

Native to Eastern Asia

Aggressively self-seeds and spreads by rhizomes around old homesites.

Has escaped intended plantings to invade, crowd out, and displace more desirable natives.

Invades waste areas, disturbed ground, forest and forest edges.

Native Alternative



Rose-mallow
Hibiscus moscheutos

5-7' tall herbaceous perennial
Blooms: showy white to pink with burgundy center in June to Sep.
Attractive to hummingbirds and pollinators
Full sun to partial shade.
Tolerates moist to occasionally wet soil.

Native Alternative



Scarlet Rose-mallow
Red Hibiscus
Hibiscus coccineus

6-8' tall herbaceous perennial
Blooms: very large showy red flower in late summer
Attractive to hummingbirds and pollinators
Full sun to partial shade.
Tolerates moist to occasionally wet soil.

Native alternative



Swamp Rose-mallow
Hibiscus grandiflorus

5-15" tall herbaceous perennial
Blooms: fragrant flowers, up to 10' across open at night and last for a day.
Full sun to partial shade
Frequent standing water, occasion flooding and wet.
Suitable for rain gardens.

Native Hibiscus support the specialized bee Ptilothrix bombiformis

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Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

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Scarlet Rose-mallow, Red Hibiscus - *Hibiscus coccineus*: Hope Duckworth – CC BY 4.0

Swamp Rose-mallow - *Hibiscus grandifloras*; Bob Peterson – CC BY 2.0

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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