

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

INVASIVE plant – Winged Euonymus



Winged Euonymus – *Euonymus alatus*

Deciduous shrub called “burning bush” because leaves turn a brilliant red in fall. Grows to 12', inconspicuous flowers bloom in spring, smooth, red-purple fruits in late summer.

Occurs from Ontario to northern Florida and west from Wisconsin to Illinois. Most competitive colonies are found from New England to Virginia. Birds feed on the fruits and disperse the seeds.

Shade tolerant grows in many soil types. Shrubs naturalize in woodlands, grow densely and outcompetes native plants

Native to northeastern Asia. Introduced to the US as an ornamental shrub in the 1860s.

Control of Winged Euonymus:
Plants should be pulled or dug up. If large shrub, cut stump and treat with glyphosate

Native Alternative



Black Chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa

Deciduous shrub spreads freely and suckers profusely. The top is often rounded and upright, 6-10'. The fruit is edible though very astringent and is produced from 5-6 flowered clusters that bloom in late spring. Full sun to partial shade and tolerates a wide variety of soil types including wet boggy soils. Nectar source for pollinators

Native Alternative



Highbush Blueberry
Vaccinium corymbosum

Deciduous upright, 8-15' multi-stemmed, slow-growing shrub found naturally in bogs, swamps, and high elevation forests. It is planted for its edible fruit and beautiful fall color. Ideal pH is 5.0; group them with other acid-loving plants; hollies, azaleas, rhododendrons, and camellias. Use highbush blueberry as a hedge or mass planting in edible, pollinator, butterfly or rain gardens.

Native Alternative



Fragrant Sumac
Rhus aromatica

Deciduous low, irregular spreading shrub has branches that touch the ground and often form roots, 2-6'. It also suckers to form colonies. This plant has many benefits, including fall color and being tolerant to the following: drought, erosion, black walnut, rabbit, clay soil, dry soil, and shallow rocky soil. Sun to part shade. Nectar source for bees and butterflies.

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Prepared by Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

Other Suggested Alternatives:

Silky Dogwood - *Cornus amomum*
Virginia Sweetspire - *Itea virginica*
Mapleleaf Viburnum - *Viburnum acerifolium*
Fragrant or Shining Sumac- *Rhus aromatica* or *copallina*

Photographs:

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Highbush Blueberry - *Vaccinium corymbosum*: Per Verdonk – CC BY-NC 2.0
Fragrant Sumac - *Rhus aromatica*:

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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