

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

### INVASIVE plant – Autumn Olive



Autumn Olive – *Elaeagnus umbellata*

Grows as small shrubs to small trees to 30' and covered with silvery leaves, fragrant, creamy yellow flowers in spring, produces large numbers of small fruits eaten by birds

Invasive from Ontario to Florida and west from Wisconsin to Kansas, Arkansas and Louisiana. Drought tolerant and ability to grow under low fertility. Shrubs grow densely and outcompete native plants

Native to Japan, Korea and China. Introduced to the US as an ornamental shrub in 1830. It was promoted as a cover and food plant, and to farmers as fast growing windbreaks

Control of Autumn Olive:  
Plants should be pulled or dug up as roots resprout.  
Treat cut stumps with glyphosate

### Native Alternative



Red Chokeberry  
*Aronia arbutifolia*

Deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub grows in vase-shaped form, 6-10' tall  
Many clusters of small, white to light pink flowers in April followed by bright red berries that persist into December.  
Sun to Part Shade, average, moist, well-drained soil; tolerant of clay soil. Nectar source for pollinators

### Native Alternative



American Snowbell  
*Styrax americanus*

Deciduous, slender branched woody, 6-10' small tree or large shrub. In spring pendulous rounded clusters or single bell-like blooms of white fragrant flowers attract bees, butterflies and moths. Hairy fruits emerge after flowering. Full sun to partial shade in rich, acidic, well drained sandy loam based soils; tolerant of wet soils.

### Native Alternative



Serviceberry  
*Amelanchier canadensis*

Deciduous, early-flowering, 15-25' large shrub or small tree. In spring the showy, fragrant flowers bloom in clusters before leaf-out; purple berry-like drupes follow. Red/orange fall color. Prefers part shade, adaptable to wet or dry sites and soil types. Nectar source for pollinators and berries for wildlife.

### Additional suggested Alternatives:

Winterberry - *Ilex verticillata*,  
Groundsel bush – *Baccharis halimifolia*  
Beautyberry - *Callicarpa americana*  
Spicebush - *Lindera benzoin*

### Photographs:

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### 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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