





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

INVASIVE plant – Butterfly Bush		
		
<p>Butterfly Bush <i>Buddleja davidii</i></p>		
<p>Popular landscape plant to attract butterflies and bees -- but does not provide habitat for them</p> <p>Commonly escapes cultivated areas and becomes invasive in a variety of habitats, displacing native plants</p> <p>Native to China Brought to the U.S. in the early 1900s as an ornamental shrub</p> <p>Control of Butterfly Bush Manual: Hand pick seedlings or dig out larger bushes whenever possible Chemical: cut plants and treat stumps with a systemic herbicide. Be sure to follow instructions on the herbicide label.</p>		
Native Alternative	Native Alternative	Native Alternative
		
<p>Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i></p>	<p>Beautyberry <i>Callicarpa americana</i></p>	<p>Virginia Sweetspire <i>Itea virginica</i></p>
<p>Deciduous shrub Height: 6' Blooms: white to pink June – September Part shade – shade Attracts butterflies, bees and other insects Fruit attract birds Deer Resistant</p>	<p>Deciduous shrub Height: 3' - 6' Blooms: white to pink May-July Part shade, heat tolerant Good understory shrub Requires little maintenance Valuable as wildlife food plant Unusually brilliant berries</p>	<p>Deciduous shrub Height: 6-8 Blooms: white April – June Part Shade Attracts insects and birds Can form dense colonies Great fall foliage color</p>

Photos borrowed from the North Carolina State University Extension Webpage – through the [CCPL](#)

Prepared by Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

Other suggested alternatives:

Summersweet, Sweet Pepperbush - *Clethra alnifolia*
New York ironweed - *Vernonia noveboracensis*

Photographs:

Butterfly Bush - *Buddleja davidii*: Gonmi – CC BY 2.0
Buttonbush - *Cephalanthus occidentalis*: Botbin – CC BY-SA 3.0
Beautyberry - *Callicarpa americana*: Forest and Kim Starr – CC BY 2.0
Virginia Sweetspire - *Itea virginica*: Cathy DeWitt – CC BY 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.



Helping Our Planet Endure

Goochland-Powhatan
Master Gardener Association

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the US. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.