

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

INVASIVE plant – Chinese Privet



Chinese Privet – *Ligustrum sinensis*

Semi-evergreen ornamental shrub or small tree that has become an invasive weed in southeastern US.

Produces abundant root suckers and forms impenetrable thickets – 6-13' tall – crowding out native species

Flower odor is unpleasant to some. Both foliage and fruit are toxic to humans and livestock

Native to China
Brought to the U.S. 1852 to be used as hedges and in landscaping and has escaped cultivation

Preventive measure: Do not plant

Native Alternative



Black Chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa

Perennial deciduous shrub
Height: 6-12'
Blooms: white with pink
April-May
Part shade
Attracts butterflies and other pollinators
Food source for birds
No serious disease or insect problems

Native Alternative



Inkberry - *Ilex glabra*

Evergreen perennial shrub
Height: 6-12'
Blooms: white
June - September
Fragrant
Part shade
Special value to honeybees
Attracts bees, butterflies and specialized bees
Fruit for birds and mammals

Native Alternative



Blackhaw
Viburnum prunifolium

Perennial deciduous shrub
Height: 12-24'
Blooms: white
April – May
Part shade
Berries attract birds and mammals
Special value to bumblebees
Significant fall foliage color

Other Suggested Alternatives:

Arrowwood - *Viburnum dentatum*
Devil wood – *Osmanthus americanus*
Carolina Cherry Laurel – *Prunus caroliniana*
Yaupon Holly - *Ilex vomitoria*
Bayberry, Wax Myrtle – *Myrica cerifera*
Red Chokeberry – *Aronia arbutifolia*
Possumhaw – *Viburnum nudum*
Buttonbush – *Cephalanthus occidentalis*

Photographs:

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Inkberry - *Ilex glabra*: Debbie Roos
Blackhaw - *Viburnum prunifolium*: Susan Caldwell – CC BY-NC 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.



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