

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

INVASIVE plant – Chinese Silvergrass



Chinese Silvergrass – *Miscanthus sinensis*

Commonly planted as an ornamental grass

Invasive in southeastern US – categorized as invasive in 25 states and DC
Most frequently found in large clumps along roadsides and disturbed areas

Native to China (also Japan, South Korea & Taiwan)
Introduced to the US for ornamental purposes
In the late 1800s
Has numerous cultivars in the US

Control of *Miscanthus*:
Repeated mowing as short as possible
Digging it out; burning; grazing

Highly flammable – increases fire risk

Native Alternative



Sugarcane Plumegrass
Saccharum giganteum

Perennial grass
Height: 6 -12'
Blooms: golden to red
October
Flowers in 6 – 16" plumes
Fruits – peach to silver
Full sun, moist soil, heat tolerant
Showy, dramatically tall grass
Tolerates air pollution

Native Alternative



Pink Muhly Grass
Muhlenbergia capillaris

Perennial grass
Height: 1-3'
Blooms: pink - purple
October
Full sun
Stunning pink/lavender feathery
floral display in fall
Provides cover year round
Seeds attract songbirds and
small mammals

Native Alternative



Indian Grass, *Sorghastrum nutans*

Perennial grass
Height: 3-5'
Blooms: yellow
August - October
Sun, Part Shade, Shade
Ornamental accent – grows in
clumps
Seeds attract birds and small
mammals
Nesting material
Deer resistant

Additional suggested Alternatives:

Purple Lovegrass - *Eragrostis spectabilis*
Big Bluestem - *Andropogon gerardii*,
Bottlebrush Grass - *Elymus hystrix*
Switchgrass - *Panicum virgatum*
Little Bluestem - *Schizachyrium scoparium*

Photographs:

Chinese Silvergrass – *Miscanthus sinensis*: Cathy DeWitt-CC BY 4.0
Sugarcane Plumegrass - *Saccharum giganteum*: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service bugwood.org –
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Pink Muhly Grass - *Muhlenbergia capillaris*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0
Indian Grass - *Sorghastrum nutans*: Douglas Goldman, USDA – 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 Blue Ridge
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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