

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

INVASIVE plant – Golden Bamboo



Golden Bamboo - *Phyllostachys aurea*

Often planted to create or enhance privacy
 Used to create visual as well as noise barriers
 Fast-growing, woody rhizomatous perennial grass
 Adds 3-4' of new growth a year
 Forms dense monoculture that suffocates native plants thereby altering the whole ecosystem

Native to Southeast China
 First to the U.S. in Alabama in 1882

Control of Golden Bamboo

Manual: cut shoots as close to the ground as possible and repeat several times during the growing season
 Chemical herbicides may be effective, but do follow the product instructions carefully.

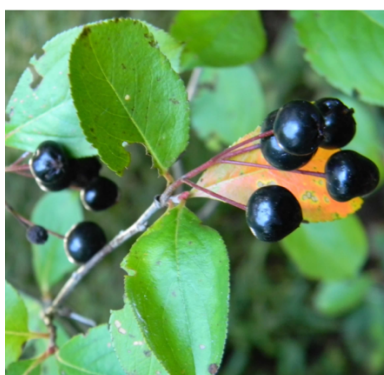
Native Alternative



Giant Cane, American Bamboo
Arundinaria gigantea

Evergreen perennial grass
 Height: 3-6'
 Blooms: green
 February - May
 Part shade
 Attracts birds and butterflies
 Larval host to many insect species
 Benefits wildlife, including warblers, turkeys, rabbits, deer and many others

Native Alternative



Red or Black Chokeberry
Aronia arbutifolia or
A. melanocarpa

Deciduous shrub
 Can form small clumps
 Height: 6-12'
 Blooms: white
 May
 Part shade
 Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds
 Fruit for birds and mammals

Native Alternative



Indiangrass
Sorghastrum nutans

Perennial grass
 Height: 3-8'
 Blooms: yellow
 August - October
 Sun or shade
 Grows in clumps
 Seeds for small mammals and birds – nesting materials
 Larval host for skipper butterflies
 Deer resistant

Other suggested alternatives:

Big Bluestem - *Andropogon gerardii*
Eastern Red Cedar - *Juniperus virginiana*
Switchgrass – *Panicum virgatum*
Arborvitae - *Thuja occidentalis*
Native vines on a trellis

Photographs:

Golden Bamboo - *Phyllostachys aurea*: Tomás Royo – CC BY 2.0
Giant Cane, American Bamboo - *Arundinaria gigantea*: David J. Stang – CC BY-SA 4.0
Black Chokeberry – *Aronia melanocarpa*: Randy Harter – CC BY 4.0
Indiangrass - *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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