

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

### INVASIVE plant – Italian Arum



Italian Arum – *Arum italicum*

Forms dense groundcover that shades out native and other plants  
 Can spread over great distances by birds who eat and then deposit the seeds  
 Can survive harsh winters

Native to Asia, Europe and North Africa  
 Brought to the U.S. as an ornamental plant and is now considered invasive

Control of Italian Arum  
 Be careful when removing tubers. Small pieces can generate new plants  
 Chemical treatments are not effective with this plant and may harm nearby plants.

Poisonous to humans and animals

### Native Alternative



Green Dragon  
*Arisaema dracontium*

Perennial  
 Height: 12-15"  
 Blooms: white, yellow, green  
 April – June  
 Unique flower shape  
 Part to full shade  
 Birds & mammals eat the berries.  
 Attract pollinators and song birds  
 Propagate by tuber division or seeds

### Native Alternative



Canada Wild Ginger  
*Asarum canadense*

Low, colony-forming perennial  
 Height: 6-8"  
 Blooms: red, purple, brown  
 April - June  
 Part shade – full shade  
 Larval host for Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly  
 Pollen for flies and beetles  
 Tolerated deer browsing, wet soils and heavy shade

### Non-native Alternative



Angel Wings - *Caladium*

Tropical plant – does not overwinter in Virginia – dig up tubers in the fall  
 Height: about 12"  
 Blooms: green, orange, pink  
 Summer bloom  
 Part sun – full shade  
 Variable foliage color  
 Rodents are attracted to the tubers.  
 Plants are moderately toxic to humans and pets.

**Other suggested alternatives:**

Toothwort – *Cardamine diphylla*  
Jack-in-the-Pulpit – *Arisaema triphyllum*  
Allegheny Spurge – *Pachysandra procumbens*  
May Apple – *Podophyllum peltatum*

**Photographs:**

Italian Arum – *Arum italicum*: James Gaither – CC BY-NC-ND 2.0  
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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 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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