





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

<p>INVASIVE plant – Pampas Grass</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pampas Grass – Cortaderia selloana</i></p>	<p>Commonly planted as an ornamental grass 6-13' high, roots can spread 13' in diameter and 11' depth.</p> <p>Wind-dispersed seeds can be found up 20 miles from parent plant. Each flower head can produce up to 100,000 seeds.</p> <p>Native to South America</p> <p>Forms dense stands that can quickly become a fire hazard.</p> <p>Caution: The blades of this grass have very sharp edges. Wear gloves and protective clothing when working with this plant.</p> <p>Control: Use chain saw or weed-eater to expose the crown; dig out crown with pick axe.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Native Alternative</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sugarcane Plumegrass Saccharum giganteum</i></p> <p>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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Native Alternative</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Switchgrass Panicum virgatum</i></p> <p>Perennial grass 3-7' tall Blooms: Pink-tinged branched flower panicles from Jun - Oct Full sun Slow spread by rhizomes Remains attractive all year long. Seeds attract birds and mammals</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Native Alternative</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Indian Grass Sorghastrum nutans</i></p> <p>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</p>

Photos borrowed from the North Carolina State University Extension Webpage - through the [CCPL](#)
Prepared by Goochland-Powhatan Master Gardeners Association

Other Suggested Alternatives:

Purple Lovegrass, *Eragrostis spectabilis*,
Pink Muhly Grass *Muhlenbergia capillaris*

Photographs:

Pampas Grass – *Cortaderia selloana*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Sugarcane Plumegrass - *Saccharum giganteum*: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org
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Switchgrass - *Panicum virgatum*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Indian Grass - *Sorghastrum nutans*: Douglas Goldman, USDA – DD 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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Goochland-Powhatan
Master Gardener Association

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