

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

### INVASIVE plant - Winter Creeper



Winter Creeper – *Euonymus fortunei*

Grows as a climbing vine or sprawling shrub

Invasive in southeastern US but found in New England, Michigan, Illinois and Missouri

Tolerant of heavy shade, found in forest and forest gaps. Dense ground cover restricts native plant establishment. Climbing vines can reach 40-70' and can kill shrubs and small trees

Native to Japan, Korea and China  
Introduced to the US as an evergreen groundcover in 1907. Still a popular seller due to its drought tolerance and rapid growth  
Has numerous cultivars in the US

Control of Winter Creeper:  
Plants should be pulled or dug up as roots and stems will resprout

### Native Alternative



Wild Ginger  
*Asarum canadense*

Good low deciduous groundcover for woodlands and shaded landscapes, heart-shaped velvety green leaves  
Height: 8 – 10 “  
Blooms: red, green, purple  
April to June  
Part Shade – Shade  
Attracts butterflies  
Larval host for Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly

### Native Alternative



Carolina or Yellow Jessamine  
*Gelsemium sempervirens*

Aromatic, showy evergreen vine. Heat and cold tolerant.  
Height: 12-36’  
Yellow tubular 1-1.5” flowers  
March-May, December  
Sun to part shade, best in sun  
Moist, well-drained, humus-rich, sandy or clay soils; pH adaptable, no serious disease or insect problems.  
All parts of plant are toxic

### Native Alternative



Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle  
*Lonicera sempervirens*

Evergreen 3-20’ vine  
Red outer, sometimes yellow inner, tubular flowers. heaviest bloom in March-July followed by bright-red berries  
Full sun best for blooming  
Adaptable to many soil conditions, deer resistant  
Visited by hummingbirds and butterflies, host to 33 spring capterpillars

**Additional suggested Alternatives:**

Crossvine *Bignonia capreolata*  
Pipevine - *Aristolochia macrophylla*  
American Wisteria- *Wisteria frutescens*

**Photographs:**

Winter Creeper – *Euonymus fortunei*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0  
Wild Ginger - *Asarum canadense*: Jim Robbins – CC BY-NC-ND 4.0  
Carolina or Yellow Jessamine - *Gelsemium sempervirens*: Kai-Yan—Joseph-Wong – CC BY-NC-SA 4.0  
Trumpet or Coral Honeysuckle - *Lonicera sempervirens*: Susan Strine – CC BY 2.0

**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.



Helping Our Planet Endure

Goochland-Powhatan  
Master Gardener Association

*Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the US. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.*