

Commonly Sold Invasive Plants and Some Native Plant Alternatives

| Invasive Plant | | | Native Plant Alternatives | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|--|--------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Scientific Name | Common Name | Desirable Trait(s) | Scientific Name | Common Name | Desirable Trait(s) | Wildlife Value | Sun & Soil Requirements |
| GRASSES | | | | | | | |
| <i>Arundo donax</i> | giant reed | tall, bamboo-like | <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> | big bluestem | tall, colorful, clump-forming | birds | full to part sun; clay, loamy to sandy and dry to wet soils; pH 6-7.5 |
| | | | <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> | Indiangrass | tall, colorful, clump-forming, nutritious for livestock | birds | full sun; clay, loamy to sandy and dry to moist soils; pH 4.8 to 8 |
| <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> | Chinese silvergrass | ornamental | <i>Andropogon glomeratus</i> | bushy bluestem | fluffy seed heads; moist soil | birds | full to part sun; clay, loamy and sandy and moist to wet soils; pH 5-6.3 |
| | | | <i>Panicum virgatum</i> | switchgrass | colorful foliage, upright habit, seed heads | birds | full to part sun; clay, loamy and sandy and dry to wet soils; pH 4.5-8 |
| HERBACEOUS | | | | | | | |
| <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> | purple loosestrife | Showy flowers, wet soil, long bloom | <i>Eupatorium purpureum, E. maculatum, & E. fistulosum</i> | Joe-pye-weed | purple flowers, wet soils | birds, bees, butterflies | full to partial sun, moist to wet soils, clay to loamy soils |
| | | | <i>Liatris spicata, & L. scariosa</i> | blazing star | showy purple flowers, long bloom time | bees, butterflies | full to partial sun, loamy to sandy soils, dry to moist soils |
| | | | <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> | swamp milkweed | showy pink flowers, wet soils | | full to partial sun, clay to loamy, moist to wet soils |
| <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i> | goutweed | groundcover, variegated foliage in certain varieties | <i>Senecio aureus</i> | golden ragwort | early yellow flowers, groundcover, evergreen | bees, butterflies | full sun to shade; loamy and moist to wet soil soils (will grow in drier soils) |
| | | | <i>Eurybia divaricata</i> | white wood aster | white flowers, fast spreading | bees, butterflies | partial sun to shade; dry to moist sol |
| <i>Muscari botryoides, M. neglectum, & M. atlanticum</i> | grape hyacinth | purple flowers, bulb | <i>Mertensia virginica</i> | Virginia bluebells | showy blue early spring flowers | bees | partial sun to shade; organic, clay to loamy and moist to wet soils; pH 4.5-8 |
| | | | <i>Claytonia virginica</i> | spring beauty | white spring flowers, bulb | bees | shade; organic to loamy and moist soils |

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| HERBACEOUS Cont. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Hemerocallis fulva</i> | orange daylily | flowers, tolerates most soils and drought | <i>Lilium canadense</i> | Canada lily | colorful flowers | bees | full to part sun; loamy and moist to wet soils |
| | | | <i>Lilium philadelphicum</i> | wood lily | colorful flowers | bees, butterflies, birds | full to part sun; loamy, sandy and dry soils |
| | | | <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> | oxeye sunflower | yellow flowers, long bloom time | bees, butterflies, hummingbirds | full to part sun; loamy, sandy, and dry to moist soils; pH 5.6-6.8 |
| VINES | | | | | | | |
| <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> | Porcelainberry | pink to blue fruit | <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> | Virginia creeper | black-blue fruit, fall color | birds, mammals | full sun to shade; clay, loamy, sandy and dry to wet soils |
| | | | <i>Vitis</i> species | grape | edible fruit, fragrant flowers | birds, mammals | full to part sun; well-drained soils |
| <i>Clematis terniflora</i> | sweet autumn clematis | showy flowers, fragrant | <i>Clematis virginiana</i> | Virgin's bower | showy flowers, fragrant | bees | full sun to shade; most soil textures, dry to moist soils; pH 6.1-8.5 |
| <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> | wintercreeper | evergreen, groundcover | <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> | Christmas fern | evergreen, dry soil, shade | | part sun to shade; loamy, sandy and moist soils; pH 4.5-7 |
| | | | <i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i> | green-and-gold | evergreen, groundcover, yellow flowers | butterflies | full sun to part shade; loamy and dry to moist soils |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | English ivy | evergreen, shade, groundcover | <i>Asarum canadense</i> | wild ginger | herb groundcover, shade, semi-evergreen | insects | part sun to shade; clay, loamy, sandy and moist soils |
| <i>Lonicera japonica</i> | Japanese honeysuckle | white fragrant flowers, twining, black fruit | <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> | trumpet honeysuckle | red flowers, twining, red fruit | hummingbirds, birds, butterflies | full to partial sun; clay to sandy and dry to moist soils; pH 6.1 - 7.5 |
| <i>Vinca minor</i> | common periwinkle | blue flowers, groundcover, shade | <i>Phlox stolonifera</i> & <i>P. divariacata</i> | creeping & wild blue phlox | semi-evergreen, flowers, groundcover | butterflies, insects | part sun to shade; organic, loamy to sandy and dry to moist soils |

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| SHRUBS | | | | | | | |
| <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> | Japanese barberry | fall color, winter fruit, dense habit | <i>Morella pensylvanica</i> | bayberry | fruit, fragrant leaves | birds | full sun to partial shade, poor soils, drought tolerant |
| | | | <i>Ilex verticillata</i> | winterberry | fruit, minimal yellow fall color | birds, bees, mammals | full sun to partial shade, moist soil textures, wet tolerant, need male and female |
| | | | <i>Photinia pyrifolia</i> | red chokeberry | fruit, fall color | birds, bees, mammals | full sun to partial shade, adapts to various soil conditions |
| <i>Buddleja davidii</i> | butterfly bush | flower spikes, attracts butterflies | <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> | buttonbush | summer flower clusters | bees, butterflies | full sun to shade; most soil textures and wet, moist to flooded soils; pH 6.1 to 8.5 |
| | | | <i>Ceanothus americanus</i> | New Jersey tea | late spring flower clusters, seed pods | bees, butterflies, birds, mammals | full to part sun; clay, loamy or sandy and dry soils; pH 4.3-6.5; tolerates most soil types if well-drained |
| <i>Euonymus alatus</i> | burningbush | fall color | <i>Cornus sericea</i> | red-osier dogwood | fruits, fall color | birds, bees, mammals | full sun to shade; moist, well-drained soil, but adaptable |
| | | | <i>Photinia melanocarpa</i> | black chokeberry | fruits, fall color | birds, bees, mammals | full to part sun; most soil types, dry to wet soils; pH 5.1-6.5 |
| | | | <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> | highbush blueberry | showy flowers, edible fruit, fall color | birds, bees, butterflies, mammals | full sun, partial sun, shade, dry to wet, organic to sandy |
| <i>Forsythia</i> species | forsythia | yellow flowers, spreading | <i>Lindera benzoin</i> | spicebush | All parts edible, aromatic when crushed, fall color, fruit | butterflies, birds, mammals | part sun to shade; loamy, sandy and moist to wet soils; pH 4.5-6.5 |
| <i>Spiraea japonica</i> | Japanese spiraea | showy flowers, mounded form | <i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> | steeplebush | showy pink flowers | butterflies | full sun; organic, clay, loamy, sandy and moist to wet soils |
| | | | <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> | ninebark | showy flowers, exfoliating bark | bees, birds, butterflies mammals | full to part sun; clay, loamy and moist to wet soils; pH 6.1-8.5 |

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| TREES | | | | | | | |
| <i>Acer palmatum</i> | Japanese maple | foliage color and texture | <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> | white fringetree | yellow fall color, showy, fragrant flowers, fruit (female) | birds | full sun to shade, loamy, sandy and dry to moist soils, pH 4.4-6.5 |
| | | | <i>Cercis canadensis</i> | eastern redbud | early purple flowers, fast growth, umbrella shape | bees, butterflies, birds, mammals | part sun to shade, loamy, sandy and dry to moist soils, pH 4.5-7.5 |
| <i>Acer platanoides</i> | Norway maple | yellow fall color, shade tolerant, tolerates poor soils | <i>Acer rubrum</i> | red maple | red fall color | mammals | full sun to partial shade; moist soils, but can tolerate wet soils; lower pH (more acidic soils) |
| | | | <i>Acer saccharum</i> | sugar maple | yellow to orange fall color | mammals | full sun or shade, moist, fertile soil; tolerant of higher pH soils (more basic) |
| <i>Paulownia tomentosa</i> | princess tree | showy flowers, fast growth | <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> (southeastern part of PA only) | sweetbay magnolia | showy fragrant flowers, fast growth, semi-evergreen | bees, insects, birds, mammals | full sun to shade; organic, clay, loamy and sandy and moist to wet soils; pH 5-6.5 |
| | | | <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> | tulip poplar | fast growth, fall color | bees, birds, hummingbirds, mammals | full to part sun; loamy to sandy and moist soils; pH 4.5-6.5 |
| <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> | Bradford/callery pear | white flowers, fall color, upright form | <i>Amelanchier arborea/A. laevis/A. canadensis</i> | serviceberry/shadbush | white flowers, edible fruit, fall color | bees, birds, butterflies, mammals | part sun to shade; soil type and moisture vary depending on species; ~pH 5.5-7.5 |
| | | | <i>Crataegus crus galli</i> | cockspur hawthorn | white flowers, fruit | bees, birds, butterflies | full to part sun; clay, loamy or sandy soils and dry to moist soils; pH 4.5-7.2 |
| | | | <i>Cornus florida</i> | flowering dogwood | white flowers, red fruit, fall color | bees, birds, mammals | Partial sun; loamy and dry to moist soils; pH 5-7 |

Helpful Resources

iConserve Pennsylvania

<http://www.iconservepa.org>

Lists native plant nurseries in Pennsylvania and provides a tool to help you determine what plants are right for the conditions on your property.

Native Plant Center: Chesapeake Region

<http://www.nativeplantcenter.net>

Ernst Conservation Seeds

<http://www.ernstseed.com/>

Native seed mixes available for different habitats.

Plant Native

<http://www.plantnative.org>

Lists native plant nurseries in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Native Plant Society

<http://www.panativeplantsociety.org/index.html>

Lists plant nurseries in Pennsylvania and provides useful native plant information and other resources.

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas (pdf of publication)

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/midatlantic.pdf>

Mistaken Identity? Invasive Plants and their Native Look-Alikes (pdf of publication)

ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/DE/publications/Mistaken_Identity_Final.pdf

Mid-Atlantic Invasive Plant Council (MAIPC) Invasive Plant List

<http://www.invasive.org/maweeds.cfm>

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