

Non-Invasive Shrubs

Amelanchier canadensis—Shadbush
Aronia arbutifolia—Red chokeberry
Calycanthus floridus—Carolina allspice
Camellia japonica—Japanese camellia
Clethra alnifolia—Sweet pepperbush
Cornus sericea—Red-osier dogwood
Corylus americana—Hazelnut
Daphne x burkwoodii—Burkwood daphne
Fothergilla gardenii—Dwarf fothergilla
Hamamelis spp.—Witch hazel
Hydrangea spp.—Hydrangea
Ilex glabra—Inkberry
Ilex verticillata—Common winterberry
Itea virginica—Virginia sweetspire
Physocarpus opulifolius—Ninebark
Prunus laurocerasus—Cherry laurel
Syringa meyeri—Meyer lilac
Vaccinium spp.—Blueberry
Viburnum dentatum—Arrowwood viburnum
Viburnum prunifolium—Blackhaw viburnum

Keep your garden invasives-free

Your garden is a place for beauty and enjoyment, and you can make a difference in protecting natural areas and wildlife habitat by choosing the right plants. Many non-invasive plants are available as alternatives for your use.

How to use this guide

Take this wallet guide with you to the nursery to help you make good choices. The lists should give you a start—but always be sure to ask if plants are known invaders, and avoid those that are or could be.



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Non-Invasive Trees

Asimina triloba—Paw Paw
Acer rubrum—Red maple
Amelanchier laevis—Serviceberry
Celtis occidentalis—Common hackberry
Cercis canadensis—Eastern redbud
Chamaecyparis spp.—Falsecypress
Chionanthus virginicus—Fringetree
Fagus sylvatica—American beech
Franklinia alatamaha—Franklinia
Halesia carolina—Carolina silverbell
Ilex opaca—American holly
Liquidambar styraciflua—Sweetgum
Magnolia grandiflora—Southern magnolia
Nyssa sylvatica—Black gum
Ostrya virginica—Ironwood
Picea pungens—Colorado spruce
Platanus occidentalis—American sycamore
Quercus alba—White oak
Quercus palustris—Pin oak
Quercus phellos—Willow oak
Thuja occidentalis—Arborvitae

Recommended Landscape Alternatives to Invasive Plants of the Potomac River Watershed and Surrounding Region



wallet guide

Non-Invasive Vines

Aristolachia macrophylla—Dutchman's pipe
Bignonia capreolata—Crossvine
Campsis radicans—Trumpet creeper
Hydrangea anomala petiolaris—Climbing hydrangea
Lonicera sempervirens—Native honeysuckle
Parthenocissus quinquefolia—Virginia creeper
Wisteria frutescens—American wisteria

Non-Invasive Groundcovers

Aster ericoides—Heath aster
Athyrium filix-femina—Lady fern
Chrysogonum virginianum—Green-and-gold
Erica carnea—Spring heath
Juniperis horizontalis—Creeping juniper
Phlox stolonifera—Creeping phlox
Phlox subulata—Moss phlox
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldstrum'—Golden coneflower

Non-Invasive Perennials

Aster divaricatus—White wood aster
Baptisia australis—Blue false indigo
Coreopsis spp.—Tickseed
Echinacea purpurea—Eastern purple coneflower
Eupatorium spp.—Joe-pye weed
Heuchera spp.—Coralberry
Iris versicolor—Blue flag iris
Lobelia cardinalis—Cardinal flower
Monarda spp.—Beebalm
Rudbeckia hirta—Black-eyed Susan
Sedum 'Autumn Joy'—Stonecrop
Solidago spp.—Goldenrod
Tiarella spp.—Foamflower

Non-Invasive Grasses and Sedges

Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'—Feather reed grass
Carex albursina—White bear sedge
Carex pennsylvanica—Early sedge
Panicum virgatum—Switchgrass
Schizachyrium scoparium—Little bluestem

AVOID THESE INVADERS**Trees and Shrubs**

Acer platanoides—Norway maple
Acer pseudoplatanus—Sycamore maple
Ailanthus altissima—Tree of heaven
Bambusa—Exotic bamboo
Berberis thunbergii—Japanese barberry
Buddleia davidii—Butterfly bush
Eleagnus spp.—Autumn olive
Euonymus alatus—Burning bush
Ligustrum spp.—Privet
Lonicera spp.—Bush honeysuckle
Nandina domestica—Heavenly bamboo
Paulownia tomentosa—Empress tree
Phyllostachys aurea—Golden bamboo
Prunus subhirtella—Higan cherry
Pyrus calleryana—Callery pear
Quercus acutissima—Sawtooth oak
Spirea japonica—Japanese spirea
Ulmus parvifolia—Chinese elm
Viburnum dilatatum—Linden viburnum
Viburnum plicatum—Doublefile viburnum
Viburnum sieboldii—Siebold viburnum

AVOID THESE INVADERS**Grasses, Flowers, Vines, Groundcovers**

Akebia quinata—Fiveleaf akebia
Celastrus orbiculatus—Bittersweet
Clematis terniflora—Sweet autumn clematis
Euonymus fortunei—Wintercreeper
Hedera helix—English ivy
Hemerocallis fulva—Common daylily
Iris pseudacorus—Yellow flag iris
Lonicera japonica—Japanese honeysuckle
Lythrum salicaria—Purple loosestrife
Miscanthus sinensis—Chinese silver grass
Pennisetum alopecuroides—Fountain grass
Ranunculus ficaria—Lesser celandine
Vinca spp.—Periwinkle
Wisteria sinensis/floribunda—Chinese/Japanese wisteria