

Why Plant NOVA Native Plants?

Native plants –

- Are naturally beautiful!
- Provide food for the larval and adult forms of native insects. Those insects provide the food for the nestlings of most species of birds as well as for frogs, bats, and other animals.
- Provide habitat.
- Are adapted to live here - in our acidic clay soil, hot and humid weather, and long periods of drought - with a minimum of human assistance.
- Require little if any watering once established.
- Require no chemicals to keep them alive.
- Come in more than enough varieties to satisfy any gardener.

Alien ornamental plants –

- Have been compared to plastic plants. They provide little or no food for insects and thus for birds.
- Have no natural enemies and may spread uncontrollably.
- Or conversely, grow poorly here and require excessive water and chemicals to keep them alive.
- May harbor alien insects or diseases which become epidemics here.
- Displace native plants. More than half the plants you see around here are introduced plants.

Native plants and wildlife in Northern Virginia are under major assault by invasive plants, chemicals, and deer. The one place you can guarantee protection is on your own property. Be the sanctuary – plant native!

Stay away from these popular but highly invasive plants:

English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*) and Chinese wisteria (*W. sinensis*)
Butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and other white or yellow honeysuckles
Burning bush (*Euonymus alata*)
Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
Heavenly Bamboo (*Nandina domestica*)
Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
Mimosa or Silk Tree (*Albizia julibrissin*)
Miscanthus grass

Check out these great native plants!

Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)
Bee balm (*Monarda didyma*)
Threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*)
Eastern red columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
Joe-pye weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*)
Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Gayfeather (*Liatris spicata*)
Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Orange coneflower (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)
New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*)
Southern sundrops (*Oenothera fruticosa*)
Woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)

Purple love grass (*Eragrostis spectabilis*)
Sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)
Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
Canada serviceberry (*Amelancier canadensis*)
White Oak (*Quercus alba*)
American holly (*Ilex opaca*)
River birch (*Beula nigra*)
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginicum*)
Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolium*)
Coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)
Northern maidenhead fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)
Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)