



Tried and True Native Plants To Replace Invasive Plants

Best Bets: Plants
for Particular Uses
in the Mid-Atlantic

INVASIVE PLANT: Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



This shrub was introduced from Asia around 1860 for ornamental purposes. It remains very popular and is widely used in commercial and residential landscapes and as a roadside hedge. By forming dense thickets, it alters the structure of native forest communities and is now considered invasive along much of the East Coast, including Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia.

Problems	Burning Bush
Dominates understory in woodlands by shading and outcompeting native shrubs	
Spreads to pastures and prairies	
Prolific seeds eaten and spread by birds	
Hundreds of seedlings in “seed shadow” of parent plant	
Colonizes by root suckers	
Desired Characteristics	Virginia Sweetspire
Shrub with good fall color	
Native Alternatives	
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> (Red Chokeberry)	
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> (Black Chokeberry)	
<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i> (Dwarf Fothergilla)	
<i>Itea virginica</i> (Virginia Sweetspire)	
<i>Lindera benzoin</i> (Spicebush)	
<i>Rhus aromatica</i> ‘Gro-Low’ (Fragrant Sumac)	
<i>Rhus typhina</i> (Staghorn Sumac)	
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> (Highbush Blueberry)	
<i>Viburnum nudum</i> (Possum-haw)	
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> (Black Haw)	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Elaine Mills, Arlington and Nature Conservancy Garden