

**ALTERNATIVES TO EXOTIC INVASIVES**

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*The care of the earth is our most ancient, most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope. —Wendell Berry*

INVASIVE PLANT		NATIVE ALTERNATIVE	NATIVE DESCRIPTION	NATIVE LOCATION	SOIL NEEDS
Tree of Heaven <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>		<b>KY Yellowwood</b> <i>Cladrastis kentukea</i>	To 50 feet (slow growth) Attracts native bees. White spring flower clusters.	Sun	Well-drained soil. Prefers even moisture.
		<b>Carolina Silverbell</b> <i>Halesia tetraptera</i>	15 feet. White bell shaped flowers. Good early nectar source.	Sun to Part Shade	Well-drained Lightly acid.
		<b>Cucumber Magnolia</b> <i>Magnolia acuminata</i>	To 80 feet. Stately, shapely tree. Yellow green flowers, beautiful seed pods.	Sun	Moist well-drained Acid soil.
Callery Pear 'Bradford' <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>		<b>Fringe Tree</b> <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	25 feet. Panicles of white flowers in May. Purple berries	Sun to Light Shade	Moist to Dry Acid soil is best but adaptable,
		<b>Serviceberry</b> <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	30 feet. White flowers early. Berries for birds. Host Plant for Red Spotted Purple Butterfly. Edible fruit.	Sun	Prefers moist soil but very adaptable,
		<b>Pagoda Dogwood</b> <i>Cornus Alternifolia</i>	25 feet. Late blooming with white clusters. Layered Shape. Purple berries in summer and fall.	Part Shade Subject to sunburn in heat	Moist, Well drained soil,
Bush Honeysuckle Lonicera species all shrubs		<b>Winterberry</b> <i>Ilex verticillati</i> <b>Need male and female specimens for berries</b>	8 feet. Bright red berries for birds. Good fall color.	Sun to Part Shade	Moist acid soil preferred, Adaptable,
		<b>Hearts-a-Bursting</b> <i>Euonymus americanus</i>	6 feet. Beautiful red seed pods and fall color.	Part Shade to Shade Wooded areas	Moist, humus soil,
		<b>Spicebush</b> <i>Lindera benzoin</i> <b>Need two shrubs for berries</b>	4-6 ft. Bright red berries in winter. Host to Spicebush butterfly	Shade to Sun More shade In summer	Moist to Dry
Burning Bush <i>Euonymus alata</i>		<b>Dwarf Fothergilla</b> 'Jane Platt' <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	3 feet. White flower clusters. Brilliant fall color. Host Plant	Sun to part shade Part shade in drier locations	Moist, acid soil is best but very adaptable.
		<b>Red Chokeberry</b> 'Brilliantissima' <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	5 feet. Sweet white flowers. Bright red fall color & berries.	Sun to light shade	Wet to dry. Very adaptable.
Japanese Barberry Berberis thunbergi		<b>Ninebark</b> <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> 'Diabolo' or 'Little Devil'	3-5 ft. Interesting foliage with great fall color into winter.	Sun to light shade Color best in sun	Very adaptable to different soil and conditions.

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		<b>American Cranberry</b> <i>Viburnum trilobum</i> 'Bailey's Compact'	3-5 ft. White flowers, Red berries for birds in winter months. Great fall color	Sun to part shade	Prefers moist soil but adaptable.
Purple Loosestrife <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>		<b>Winged Loosestrife</b> <i>Lythrum alatum</i>	1 to 2 feet Lovely pink to purple wetland plant. Better behaved than purple. Endangered.	Full Sun	Moist to Wet Soil Great wetland plant
		<b>Anise Hyssop</b> <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> Many Cultivars	2-5 feet. Pink and purple varieties. Bees and butterflies. Long bloomer	Sun to part sun	Very tolerant of any type soil - Medium to Dry
		<b>Blazing Star</b> <i>Liatris species</i> All varieties	2-4 feet Purple- pink clusters. Drought resistant butterfly magnet.	Full to Part Sun	Medium to Dry
Garlic Mustard <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>		<b>Foamflower</b> <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> <i>This is the native species</i>	1 ft. Lovely white spikes in late spring. Fern-like foliage. Long lasting blooms.	Shade to Part Shade	Moist, well drained. Woodland plant
		<b>Alumroot</b> <i>Heuchera americana</i> Many cultivars	1-3 ft. Heart shaped leaves Small white to green flowers in early summer.	Shade to Part Shade	Moist, well drained. Woodland plant
		<b>Dutchman's Breeches</b> <i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	8 in. Ephemeral Lacy foliage and sweet white flowers. Butterfly host.	Dappled Sun	Moist, humus soil
English Ivy <i>Hedera Helix</i>		<b>Alleghany Spurge</b> <i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>	1 ft. Evergreen leaves. Light pink flower spikes. Native bees. Plant in groups of at least 5 plants.	Part Shade to shade	Moist, humus rich to medium soil
		<b>Wild Ginger</b> <i>Asarum canadense</i>	6 in. Heart shaped evergreen leaves. Spicy fragrant flowers(hidden)	Shade to Part Shade Most sun tolerant ginger plant.	Average to moist soil. Spread best in moist well-drained soil.
		<b>Downy Skullcap</b> <i>Scutellaria incana</i>	2 ft. Green, mint-like foliage. Blue flower clusters in late summer. Great at woods edge, under tree.	Sun to Medium shade	Average to moist soil
Oriental Bittersweet <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>		<b>Native Bittersweet</b> <i>Celastrus scandens</i>	Climbs 3 to 20 feet. Orange to yellow berries in large clusters. Climbs supports but much less aggressive than non-native.	Sun to Light Shade	Average to Moist
		<b>Trumpet Honeysuckle</b> <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	10 to 20 ft. More colorful and less aggressive than Japanese. Attracts hummingbirds.	Sun to light shade Evergreen	Moist to Medium soils. Best if not allowed to dry out completely.
		<b>Butterfly Milkweed</b> <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	1-2 feet. Monarch butterfly host. Bright orange flowers. Deep roots - very difficult to relocate.	Sun	Medium to dry soil. Sandy soil best. Does not tolerate wet feet but drought resistant.

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Japanese Silver Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Indian Grass 'Indian Steel' <i>Sorghastrum nutana</i>	4-5 feet. Wheat like seed head. Source of food for winter birds.	Sun	Medium to dry soil. Prairie plant and drought tolerant.
	Little Bluestem 'Blaze' <i>Andropogon scoparius</i>	3-4 feet. Interesting hairy seedpods. Wonderful fall color extending into winter.	Sun	Medium to dry soil. Prairie plant and drought tolerant.
	Switchgrass 'Heavy Metal' <i>Panicum virgatum</i> Cultivars best for gardens	4-6 feet. Light, airy seed heads. Great winter cover for birds. Cultivars have great color.	Sun	Medium to dry soil. Prairie plant and drought tolerant. Plant at least three for support.
Crown Vetch <i>Coronilla varia</i>	Partridge Pea <i>Cassia fasciculata</i>	1-2 feet. Yellow flowers in summer. Excellent pollinator/honey plant and host to cloudless sulphur butterfly. Short lived perennial. Use with caution around livestock.	Sun	Medium to dry soil. Prairie plant and drought tolerant. Plant for erosion control.
	Round-headed Bush Clover <i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	2-4 feet. Showy white flowers in Summer to Fall. Good for naturalization in wild flower or prairie gardens. Will grow well in sandy, infertile soil.	Sun	Medium to dry soil. Prairie plant and drought tolerant. Erosion Control.
	Showy Primrose <i>Oenothera speciosa</i>	1 foot Lovely pink flowers Spring – will re-bloom. Red foliage in Fall. Provides good ground cover in poor soil. Extremely drought tolerant.	Sun	Medium to dry soil. Very aggressive. Good plant for ground cover but will overcome other plants.

**INFORMATION RESOURCES:**

**Books:**

Barnes, Tom & Wilson, Francis. *Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2004. Our own Tom Barnes presents vibrant and informative illustrative information on native wildflowers.

Burnell, C. Costin. *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*. New York: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2006. The definitive book on alternatives to natives.

Ottenson, Carole. *Native Plant Primer*. New York: Harmony Books, 1995. Practical guide to growing native plants

Sternberg, Guy & Wilson, Jim. *Landscaping with Native Trees*. Shelburne, VT: Chapters Publishing, 1995. Comprehensive guide to native trees of the eastern and mid-western US.

Tallamy, Doug. *Bringing Nature Home*. Portland, Oregon, 2007. An excellent read and important book on why native plants are essential to the future of all insects, birds, wildlife and humans.

Wharton, Mary & Roger Barbour. *Trees and Shrubs of Kentucky*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 1973. Essential for identifying trees and shrubs of Kentucky.

Zimmerman, Catherine. *Urban and Suburban Meadows*. Austin, Texas: Matrix Media Press, 2010. Comprehensive guide to growing and sustaining native plants as well as removing non-native exotics.

**On-line Resources:**

*Invasive Species Information Center*, [www.invasivespecies.info.gov](http://www.invasivespecies.info.gov) Invasive plant management and information resources.

[www.invasivespecies.org/eastern](http://www.invasivespecies.org/eastern) Great resource for pictures and listings of invasive plant information sources.

*Native Plant Society - Kentucky Chapter*. <http://www.knps.org/links.html>. Provides links to national and local information on native plants.

*Plant Conservation Allies' Alien Plant Working Group*. [www.nps.gov/plants/allien](http://www.nps.gov/plants/allien). Native alternatives to invasive listings/pictures, plus excellent information on control and eradication of invasive plants.

*Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council*. Kentucky Chapter. [www.se-eppc.org/ky](http://www.se-eppc.org/ky). "Least Wanted" posters.

*Wild Ones Native Plant Landscaping Organization*. [www.wildones.org](http://www.wildones.org). See also, [lexington.wildones.org](http://lexington.wildones.org) for information about chapter in Lexington.

**Kentucky Exotic Invasive Plants, Kentucky Exotic Pest Council – [www.se-eppc.org/ky/list.htm](http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/list.htm) (partial listing)**

**1. Severe Threat** □

Ailanthus altissima	Tree-Of-Heaven
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard
Celastrus orbiculata	Oriental Bittersweet
Conium maculatum	Poison Hemlock
Coronilla varia	Crown Vetch
Dioscorea oppositifolia	Chinese Yam
Elaeagnus umbellata	Autumn Olive
Euonymus alatus	Winged Euonymus, Burning Bush
Euonymus fortunei	Winter Creeper
Ligustrum sinense, L. vulgare	Privet
Lonicera japonica	Japanese Honeysuckle
Lonicera maackii, L. morrowi, L. tatarica	Amur/Bush Honeysuckle,
Lythrum salicaria	Purple Loosestrife
Microstegium vimineum	Japanese Grass
Miscanthus sinensis	Chinese Silver Grass
Paulownia tomentosa	Princess Tree
Phragmites australis	Common Reed
Polygonum cuspidatum	Japanese Knotweed
Pyrus calleryana	Callery Pear
Rosa multiflora	Multiflora Rose

**2. Significant Threat** □

Albizia julibrissin	Mimosa
Berberis thunbergii	Japanese Barberry
Chrysanthemum leucanthemum	Ox-Eye Daisy (not Ox-Eye Sunflower)
Daucus carota	Queen Anne's Lace
Hedera helix	English Ivy
Ipomoea hederacea	Ivy-Leafed Morning-Glory
Ipomoea purpurea	Purple Morning-Glory
Mentha piperata	Mint
Morus alba	White Mulberry
Ornithogalum umbellatum	Star-Of-Bethlehem
Populus alba	White Poplar
Spiraea japonica	Japanese Spiraea
Vinca minor	Lesser Periwinkle

**3. Lesser Threat** □

Cichorium intybus	Chicory
Commelina communis	Dayflower
Dianthus armeria	Deptford Pink
Duchesnea indica	Indian Strawberry
Eragrostis cilianensis	Lovegrass (not purple lovegrass)
Hemerocallis fulva	Common Orange Day Lily
Hypericum perforatum	Common St. John's-Wort (not native shrubs)
Leonurus cardiaca	Motherwort
Nepeta cataria	Catnip