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# Native Alternatives to Common Invasives

## What is an Invasive Plant?

An invasive plant is a non-native plant that grows out of control, out-competing our native plants for nutrients, sunlight, and space. Invasives cause harm to the environment, the economy, and some can even be dangerous for our health!

## Invaders for Sale

You may already know about common roadside invaders such as garlic mustard or Japanese knotweed, but it may surprise you that many popular plants still sold at garden & nursery centers are invasive. Here is a list of plants that you should avoid buying and native alternatives that we carry at our nursery. Some of the plants listed are more invasive than others (some might be more of 'garden thugs' than true invaders), but all should be used with extreme caution - or better yet - not at all!

**The worst actors are bolded.**

Harmful Non-native Plant	Native Alternative
Autumn Olive <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Bayberry, Red Chokeberry, Highbush Cranberry, Witch Hazel
<b>Bishop's weed</b> <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Golden Alexander, Canada Anemone, Wild Geranium
<b>Blunt-leaved privet</b> <i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i>	Inkberry, Witherod Viburnum
<b>Burning Bush</b> <i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Highbush Blueberry, Red chokeberry, Fragrant Sumac
Butterfly Bush <i>Budlia davidii</i>	Buttonbush, Summersweet, Elderberry
Common Periwinkle <i>Vinca minor</i>	Barren Strawberry, Moss Phlox, Labrador Violet, Wild Ginger
Crown Vetch <i>Coronilla varia</i>	Bearberry, Canada Anemone
Dames Rocket <i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Fireweed, Phlox, False dragonhead
English Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>	Wild Ginger, Bearberry, Moss Phlox
European Cranberry Bush <i>Viburnum opulus var. opulus</i>	Highbush Cranberry, Elderberry
Garlic Mustard <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Golden Ragwort, White Wood Aster
Foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	False Dragonhead, Fireweed, Tall White Beardtongue
<b>Japanese Barberry</b> <i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Bayberry, Virginia Rose, Ninebark, Winterberry, Inkberry
<b>Japanese Honeysuckle</b> <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Trumpet Honeysuckle
Japanese Spirea <i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Meadowsweet, Steeplebush, Eastern Ninebark
Multiflora & Rugosa Rose <i>Rosa Multiflora and R. rugosa</i>	Swamp Rose, Virginia Rose
Oriental Bittersweet <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Trumpet Honeysuckle, Wild Clematis
Porcelainberry <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Trumpet Honeysuckle, Wild Clematis
<b>Purple Loosestrife</b> <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Fireweed, New England Blazing Star, Blue Lobelia
<b>Shrubby Honeysuckles</b> <i>Lonicera spp.</i>	Serviceberry, Swamp Azalea, Winterberry, Spicebush
Wayfaring tree <i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Witherod Viburnum, New Jersey Tea
Wintercreeper <i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Bearberry
<b>Yellow Iris</b> <i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Blue Flag Iris

Be sure to avoid invasive trees as well including Norway Maple, Common Buckthorn, and Callery (Bradford) Pear.

**Fiddlehead Creek Farm and Native Plant Nursery**

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