

# NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

## to Common Landscape Plants of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Many plants that are used in landscaping offer little value to birds, pollinators, and wildlife. Some common landscaping plants such as English Ivy can even cause damage to our local ecosystem by escaping yards and aggressively replacing native plants in natural settings. Gardening with native plants is easy and protects the biodiversity of our region. Read below for some suggested native plants to use in place of common landscape plants.



### PERENNIALS

Common Plant	Native Replacement	Other Suggested Native Replacements
Purple Loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> ) <sup>1</sup>	New York Ironweed ( <i>Vernonia noveboracensis</i> ) is a nectar source for various pollinators and its seeds are a food source for many birds and small mammals.	Blue Lobelia ( <i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> ) Blazing Star ( <i>Liatris spicata</i> ) Blue Vervain ( <i>Verbena hastata</i> )
Exotic Bamboo ( <i>Bambusa</i> , <i>Phyllostachys</i> , and <i>Pseudosasa species</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	Indiangrass ( <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> ) provides cover, nesting areas, and nesting material for birds and is the larval host for the Pepper and Salt Skipper Butterfly.	Big Bluestem ( <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> ) Bottlebrush Grass ( <i>Elymus hystrix</i> ) Little Bluestem ( <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> )
Common Daylily ( <i>Hermerocallis fulva</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	Butterfly Weed ( <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> ) is a host plant for Monarchs, Queen, and Gray Hairstreak butterflies, and attracts hummingbirds.	Ox Eye ( <i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i> ) Canada Lily ( <i>Lilium canadense</i> ) Turk's Cap Lily ( <i>Lilium superbum</i> )
Hosta ( <i>Hosta species</i> )	Blue Cohosh ( <i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i> ) provides nectar and pollen for pollinators and the berries are an important fruit source for birds.	Coral Bells ( <i>Heuchera americana</i> ) False Solomon's Seal ( <i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> )
Mums ( <i>Chrysanthemum species</i> )	New England Aster ( <i>Aster novae-angliae</i> ) supports bees and butterflies and is the larval host for the Pearl Crescent Butterfly. Seeds are eaten by small mammals and birds.	White Wood Aster ( <i>Aster divaricatus</i> ) Aromatic Aster ( <i>Aster oblongifolius</i> ) Black-eye Susan ( <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> )

### VINES

Common Plant	Native Replacement	Other Suggested Native Replacements
English Ivy ( <i>Hedera helix</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	Creeping Phlox ( <i>Phlox stolonifera</i> ) is important for butterflies and other pollinators. An early bloomer, it brightens the garden with blue flowers in Spring and is deer resistant.	Coralbells ( <i>Heuchera americana</i> ) Virginia Creeper ( <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> ) Virgin's Bower ( <i>Clematis virginiana</i> )
Exotic Wisterias ( <i>Wisteria sinensis</i> , <i>W. floribunda</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	Trumpet Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> ) flowers support hummingbirds, pollinators, and butterflies and its fruit provides food for birds such as Goldfinch.	Virginia Creeper ( <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> ) Virgin's Bower ( <i>Clematis virginiana</i> ) American Wisteria ( <i>Wisteria frutescens</i> )
Japanese Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera japonica</i> ) <sup>1</sup>	Virgin's Bower ( <i>Clematis virginiana</i> ), an important hummingbird plant, also supports native bees and butterflies and provides cover for birds and small mammals.	Trumpet Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> ) Sweet Pepperbush ( <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> ) Summer Phlox ( <i>Phlox paniculata</i> )
Periwinkle ( <i>Vinca minor</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	Wild Strawberry ( <i>Fragaria virginiana</i> ) provides food for small mammals and birds and its flowers support native bees and butterflies.	Wild Ginger ( <i>Asarum canadense</i> ) Coralbells ( <i>Heuchera americana</i> ) Partidgeberry ( <i>Mitchella repens</i> )
Japanese Pachysandra ( <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	Partidgeberry ( <i>Mitchella repens</i> ) fruit persists through winter and sometimes into spring, providing food for birds and small mammals.	Virgin's Bower ( <i>Clematis virginiana</i> ) Trumpet Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> ) Sweet Pepperbush ( <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> )

## SHRUBS

Common Plant	Native Replacement	Other Suggested Native Replacements
Exotic Hydrangea ( <i>various Hydrangea species</i> )	Wild Hydrangea ( <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> ) supports butterflies, pollinators, and other beneficial insects. It is also the larval host for the Hydrangea sphinx moth.	Shrubby St. John's-wort ( <i>Hypericum prolificum</i> ) Meadowsweet ( <i>Spiraea alba</i> )
Exotic Bush Honeysuckles ( <i>Lonicera species</i> ) <sup>1</sup>	Spicebush ( <i>Lindera benzoin</i> ) is the host plant for the Spicebush Swallowtail, Promethea Silkmoth, and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail Butterflies. Its fruit provides food for a variety of birds and small mammals.	Northern Bayberry ( <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> ) Arrowwood ( <i>Viburnum dentatum</i> ) Pasture Rose ( <i>Rosa carolina</i> )
Japanese Barberry ( <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> ) <sup>1</sup>	Northern Bayberry ( <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> ) supports migrating birds in fall and resident birds in winter. Some leaves remain on plant through the winter, providing cover for wildlife.	Sweet Pepperbush ( <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> ) Virginia Sweetspire ( <i>Itea virginica</i> ) Ninebark ( <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> )
Winged Burning Bush ( <i>Euonymus alata</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	Red Chokeberry ( <i>Aronia arbutifolia</i> ) fruit, which can persist into winter, is an important source of food for birds and mammals during harsh winter months. It is also an important source of nesting and cover for birds.	Virginia Sweetspire ( <i>Itea virginica</i> ) Highbush Blueberry ( <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> ) Ninebark ( <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> )
Butterfly Bush ( <i>Buddleia species</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	Poke Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias exaltata</i> ) is the most shade tolerant of all milkweeds and the host plant for Monarch butterflies. It is also an important nectar source for various butterflies, bees, and moths.	Sweet Pepperbush ( <i>Clethra alnifolia</i> ) Virginia Sweetspire ( <i>Itea virginica</i> ) Blazing Star ( <i>Liatris spicata</i> )

## TREES

Common Plant	Native Replacement	Other Suggested Native Replacements
Bradford Pear ( <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Bradford') <sup>2</sup>	Flowering Dogwood ( <i>Cornus florida</i> ) is a stunning native understory tree whose fruit is an important food source for birds, mammals, and deer. Its spring flowers provide nectar for many pollinators.	Black Haw Shrub ( <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i> ) Serviceberry ( <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> ) Redbud ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> )
Ginkgo ( <i>Ginkgo biloba</i> )	Black Oak ( <i>Quercus velutina</i> ) and other Oak species support over 530 species of butterfly and moth larva, a very important food source for many birds. Acorns are important food sources for birds and mammals.	Tulip Poplar ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> ) Sugar Maple ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> ) White Oak ( <i>Quercus alba</i> )
Norway Maple ( <i>Acer platanoides</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	Red Maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> ) provides cover and nesting cavities for birds such as Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, and Northern Flicker. A total of 285 moth and butterfly species are supported by native maples.	Sourwood ( <i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i> ) Black Gum ( <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> ) Silver Map ( <i>Acer saccharinum</i> )
Mimosa Tree ( <i>Albizia julibrissin</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	Serviceberry ( <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> ) fruit is an important food source for birds such as Cedar Waxwings and Orioles. Its spring flowers support butterflies and native bees.	Redbud ( <i>Cercis canadensis</i> ) Sweetbay Magnolia ( <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> ) Fringetree ( <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> )
White Mulberry ( <i>Morus alba</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	Black Gum ( <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> ) provides important habitat for cavity-dwelling birds and other wildlife. Various birds and mammals rely on the fruit and the flowers support bees.	Basswood ( <i>Tilia americana</i> ) Fringetree ( <i>Chionanthus virginicus</i> ) Flowering Dogwood ( <i>Cornus florida</i> )

<sup>1</sup> Severe threat-level invasive species

<sup>2</sup> Significant threat-level invasive species

<sup>3</sup> Lesser threat-level invasive species

For more information on invasive species and how to manage them, visit [www.dcnr.org](http://www.dcnr.org).



This publication is made possible by generous support from the National Audubon Society's Coleman and Susan Burke Center for Native Plants.