

What Not to Buy at the Nursery

	Invasive Plant	Comments	Native Alternative 1	Native Alternative 2
T R E S	Black Locust* <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Invades natural areas; spreads by root to form dense stands eliminating natives. Little wildlife value. (4)	Any similar native tree.	
	Bradford Pear* <i>Pyrus calleryana</i>	Non-sterile seeds have invaded natural areas. (2)	Common Serviceberry <i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	
	Norway Maple* <i>Acer platanoides</i>	From Europe. Shades out native wildflowers. Invades disturbed areas and restoration areas. (3)	Sugar Maple <i>Acer saccharum</i>	
S H R U B	Burning Bush* <i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Native to Asia and central China. Forms dense thickets to shade out native plants.	Blackhaw <i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Wahoo <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>
	Butterfly Bush <i>Buddleia davidii</i>	From China. Does not support any native butterfly larva. Spreads by seed.	Buttonbush <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	New Jersey Tea <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>
	European Cranberry Bush <i>Viburnum opulus</i> Var. <i>opulus</i>	Can invade natural areas. Easily confused with the native cranberry bush. (3)	American Cranberry Bush <i>Viburnum opulus</i> Var. <i>americanum</i>	
	Japanese Barberry* <i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Native to Japan. Forms dense stands. May alter soil to create conditions beneficial to its growth. (4)	New Jersey Tea <i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	Ninebark <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
	Rose of Sharon <i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Native to Asia. Can be invasive due to the numerous seeds produced.	There are no natives similar to Rose of Sharon.	Select any native shrub as a replacement.
V I N E	Tree of Heaven* <i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Prolific seeder; spreads vegetatively forming dense stands eliminating native plants. (4)	Staghorn Sumac <i>Rhus typhina</i>	
	English Ivy* <i>Hedera helix</i>	Native to Eurasia, Africa. Forms dense ground cover. Do not grow near forested areas or let it climb. (3)	Virginia Creeper <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	
	Japanese Honeysuckle* <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Native to Asia. Invades natural areas and shades out natives. Should not be planted near natural areas.	Trumpet Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>	
S	Oriental Bittersweet* <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Grows rapidly; covers trees, shading out leaves, girdling trunk, weighing down branches. (4)	American Bittersweet <i>Celastrus scandens</i>	
G R A S S	Japanese Fountain Grass <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	"Not reliably hardy" (1)	Prairie Dropseed <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Sideoats Grama <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
	Maiden Grass or Japanese Silver Grass* <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	From China and Japan. On the Federal list of invasive garden plants for Illinois. (2)	Prairie Dropseed <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Switch Grass <i>Panicum virgatum</i>

	Invasive Plant	Comments	Native Alternative 1	Native Alternative 2
F O R B S	Bugleweed <i>Ajuga reptans</i>	A persistent weed. Invasive to much of the Midwest. (1)	Jacob's Ladder <i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i>
	Dame's Rocket* <i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	From Eurasia. Compete with native plants; hard to eradicate. Often found in wildflower mixes. (4)	Prairie Phlox <i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Woodland Phlox <i>Phlox divaricata</i>
	Goutweed <i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Native to Europe and Asia. Forms dense patches in natural areas. Impossible to contain. (1,3)	Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i>	
	Lily of the Valley <i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Originated from Eurasia. Do not plant near natural areas. Spreads by its root. (1,3)	False Solomon's Seal <i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	Starry Solomon's Seal <i>Smilacina stellata</i>
	Moneywort* <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Native to Great Britain and Europe. Do not plant near natural areas. (3)	Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i>	
	Orange Daylily* <i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	From China, Korea, Japan. Daylilies host no butterflies in North America. (1)	Michigan Lily <i>Lilium michiganense</i>	Butterfly Milkweed <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>
	Ox-eye Daisy* <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Native to Europe. Invasive throughout North America. Forms dense patches in disturbed areas. Often included in wildflower mixes. (1,2,3)	Common Mountain Mint <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Wild Quinine <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>
	Pachysandra <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	From China and Japan. Aggressively colonizes. Do not plant near natural areas. (1)	Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i>	Alumroot <i>Heuchera americana</i>
	Purple Loosestrife* <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Invades wetlands; reduces water flow; replaces fish cover spawning grounds. Illegal to sell in IL. (4)	Prairie Blazing Star <i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Swamp Milkweed <i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
	Vinca (periwinkle)* <i>Vinca minor</i>	From Europe. Should not be planted near natural areas. (3)	Wild Ginger <i>Asarum canadense</i>	
Yellow Flag Iris <i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Invasive in most of North America. (2)	Blue Flag Iris <i>Iris virginica shrevei</i>		

*On the Illinois Invasive Plant List

References

Websites:	Books:
www.invasiveplants.net	(1) <u>The Midwestern Native Garden</u> ; Charlotte Adelman & Bernard L. Schwartz
www.mipn.org	(2) <u>Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants</u> ; C. Colston Burrell
www.invasive.org	(3) <u>Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest</u> ; Elizabeth J. Czarapata
www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index/htm	(4) <u>A Field Guide to Invasive Plants of the Midwest</u> ; MIPN

Use the maps on the following sites to determine if a plant is native to your county in Illinois.

- www.illinoiswildflowers.info
- <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>