

## Trees

- ✗ *Acer platanoides*<sup>W</sup> - Norway maple
- ✓ *Acer* spp. (*nigrum*, *saccharum*, *rubrum*) - Native maples ○●● ❁ ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Liriodendron tulipifera* - Yellow poplar ○● ❁ ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Nyssa sylvatica* - Blackgum ○● ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Sassafras albidum* - Sassafras ○● ❁ ❁ ❁
- ✗ *Ailanthus altissima*<sup>1</sup> - Tree of Heaven
- ✓ *Gymnocladus dioica* - KY Coffeetree ○●● ❁
- ✓ *Rhus* spp. (*copallina*, *glabra*, *typhina*) - Native sumacs ○●● ❁ ❁
- ✗ *Albizia julibrissin*<sup>2</sup> - Mimosa
- ✓ *Chionanthus virginicus* - Fringetree ○●● ❁ ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Aesculus pavia* - Red buckeye ● ❁ ❁
- ✗ *Koelreuteria paniculata*<sup>W</sup> - Golden raintree
- ✓ *Cladrastis kentukea* - Yellowwood ○● ❁ ❁ ❁
- ✗ *Paulownia tomentosa*<sup>1</sup> - Princess tree
- ✓ *Cercis canadensis* - Eastern redbud ○●● ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Cornus* spp. (*alternifolia*, *florida*) - Native dogwoods ●● ❁ ❁ ❁
- ✗ *Populus alba*<sup>2</sup> - White poplar
- ✓ *Betula lenta* - Sweet birch ●● ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Populus grandidentata* - Bigtooth aspen ○● ❁ ❁ ❁
- ✗ *Pyrus calleryana*<sup>1</sup> - Callery pear, Bradford pear
- ✓ *Amelanchier* spp. - Serviceberry ○● ❁ ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Carpinus caroliniana* - American hornbeam ●● ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Crataegus* spp. - Native hawthorns ○● ❁ ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Prunus angustifolium* - Chickasaw plum ○● ❁ ❁
- ✗ *Quercus acutissima*<sup>W</sup> - Sawtooth oak
- ✓ *Quercus* spp. (*bicolor*, *imbricaria*, *shumardii*) - Native oaks ○● ❁ ❁
- ✗ *Ulmus pumila*<sup>2</sup> - Siberian elm
- ✓ *Celtis laevigata* - Sugarberry ○● ❁ ❁
- ✓ *Ulmus thomasii* - Rock elm ○●● ❁ ❁

## WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE NATIVE PLANTS?

The Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council lists 145 invasive plants with an additional 35 plants on a watch list. These plants are causing ecological harm in natural areas throughout the state by reducing native plant diversity, altering ecosystem processes and negatively impacting wildlife. They are also costing a great deal of time and financial resources to control.

Many of the invasive plants on our list have been used and promoted as ornamental plants in gardens and landscapes. Fortunately, there are a number of native Kentucky plants that offer similar attributes as well as other benefits. Native plants:

- are adapted to the local climate
- provide necessary food and shelter for wildlife
- require less fertilizer, pesticides and water
- offer a landscape unique to the region
- provide beauty through flowers, fall color, showy fruits and diversity

We offer this guide to make finding these alternatives and choosing the right native plants for your garden an easier task. However, this is not a finite list. There are many other options not listed here. Please support local garden centers that carry native species and encourage other garden centers to carry them.

Happy Gardening!

Help us document and map invasive plants! Report an infestation here: <http://www.eddmaps.org/southeast/>

For a complete list of invasive exotic plants in Kentucky, please visit: [http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/KYEPPC\\_2013list.pdf](http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/KYEPPC_2013list.pdf)



<http://www.se-eppc.org/ky/>



<http://www.gardenclubky.org/>

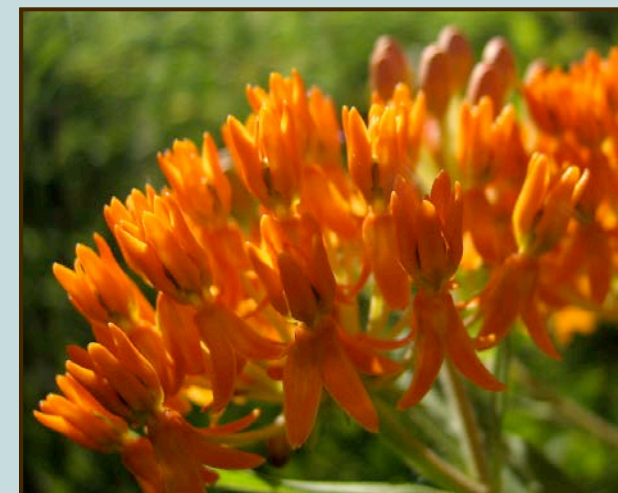
Photos:

Cover: Rusty blackhaw viburnum - *Viburnum rufidulum* (top)  
Butterfly milkweed - *Asclepias tuberosa* (bottom)

Inside: Wild blue phlox - *Phlox divaricata* (left)  
Trumpet honeysuckle - *Lonicera sempervirens* (right)

# KENTUCKY'S NATIVE ALTERNATIVES TO INVASIVE PLANTS

## A GUIDE FOR LANDSCAPERS AND GARDENERS



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✗ - Invasive exotic plants  
 ✓ - Recommended native alternatives  
 V - Vine    G - Groundcover option that is not a vine



1 - Severe threat in KY, spreads easily into native plant communities  
 2 - Significant threat in KY, may have the capacity to invade native plant communities  
 3 - Moderate threat in KY, seems to remain in disturbed corridors  
 w - Watch - Not listed as a threat in KY but has shown characteristics of invasiveness



☉ full sun    ☾ partial shade    ● full shade  
 ✿ showy flowers    🍂 fall color  
 🍷 provides food for wildlife (fruit, nectar, foliage)

Shrubs	Shrubs	Groundcovers and Vines	Herbaceous Plants
✗ <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> <sup>2</sup> - Japanese barberry	✓ <i>Rhamnus caroliniana</i> - Carolina buckthorn ☾ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Dioscorea quaternata</i> <sup>v</sup> - Wild yam ☾ ● 🍂	✓ <i>Coreopsis</i> spp. ( <i>auriculata</i> , <i>tripteris</i> ) - Lobed and tall coreopsis ☾ ☾ ✿
✗ <i>Buddleja davidii</i> <sup>3</sup> - Butterfly bush	✓ <i>Rhus aromatica</i> - Fragrant sumac ☾ ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Heuchera americana</i> <sup>c</sup> - American alumroot ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Liatris</i> spp. ( <i>aspera</i> , <i>spicata</i> , <i>squarrosa</i> ) - Native blazing stars ☾ ✿
✗ <i>Elaeagnus angustifolium</i> <sup>3</sup> - Russian olive	✓ <i>Rosa setigera</i> - Prairie rose ☾ ☾ ● ✿	✓ <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> <sup>v</sup> - Trumpet honeysuckle ☾ ☾ ✿	✓ <i>Lobelia syphilitica</i> - Great blue lobelia ☾ ☾ ● ✿
✗ <i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i> <sup>1</sup> - Autumn olive	✓ <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> - Elderberry ☾ ✿	✓ <i>Mitchella repens</i> <sup>c</sup> - Partridge berry ☾ ● ✿	✓ <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> - Wild bergamot ☾ ☾ ✿
✗ <i>Euonymus alatus</i> <sup>1</sup> - Burning bush	✓ <i>Spiraea tomentosa</i> - Steeplebush ☾ ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Pachysandra procumbens</i> <sup>c</sup> - Allegheny spurge ☾ ● ✿	✓ <i>Parthenium integrifolium</i> - Wild quinine ☾ ☾ ✿
✗ <i>Ligustrum sinense</i> <sup>1</sup> , <i>L. vulgare</i> <sup>1</sup> - Privet	✓ <i>Staphylea trifolia</i> - Bladdernut ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Packera aurea</i> <sup>c</sup> - Golden ragwort ☾ ☾ ● ✿	✓ <i>Polemonium repens</i> - Jacob's ladder ☾ ● ✿
✗ <i>Lonicera</i> spp. ( <i>fragrantissima</i> <sup>1</sup> , <i>maackii</i> <sup>1</sup> , <i>morrowii</i> <sup>3</sup> , <i>standishii</i> <sup>1</sup> , <i>tartarica</i> <sup>3</sup> ) - Bush honeysuckles	✓ <i>Styrax americanus</i> - American snowbell ☾ ✿	✓ <i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> <sup>v</sup> - Virginia creeper ☾ ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i> - Slender mt. mint ☾ ☾ ✿
✗ <i>Mahonia bealii</i> <sup>3</sup> - Leatherleaf mahonia	✓ <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> - Blueberry ☾ ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> <sup>v</sup> , <i>P. lutea</i> <sup>v</sup> - Passionflower ☾ ☾ ✿	✓ <i>Solidago</i> spp. ( <i>flexicaulis</i> , <i>nemoralis</i> , <i>speciosa</i> ) - Native goldenrods ☾ ☾ ✿
✗ <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> <sup>1</sup> , <i>R. frangula</i> <sup>w</sup> - Buckthorns	✓ <i>Viburnum</i> spp. ( <i>acerifolium</i> , <i>dentatum</i> , <i>rufidulum</i> , <i>prunifolium</i> ) - Native viburnums ☾ ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Phlox divaricata</i> <sup>c</sup> , <i>P. stolonifera</i> <sup>c</sup> - Phlox ☾ ● ✿	✓ <i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i> - Wood poppy ☾ ● ✿
✗ <i>Rosa multiflora</i> <sup>1</sup> - Multiflora rose	<b>Groundcovers and Vines</b>		✓ <i>Symphotrichum</i> spp. ( <i>cordifolium</i> , <i>novae-angliae</i> ) - Native asters ☾ ☾ ✿
✗ <i>Spiraea japonica</i> <sup>2</sup> - Japanese spiraea	✗ <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> <sup>1</sup> - Porcelain berry	<b>Herbaceous Plants</b>	
✓ <i>Aronia</i> spp. ( <i>arbutifolia</i> , <i>melanocarpa</i> ) - Native chokeberries ☾ ✿ 🍂 🍷	✗ <i>Celastrus orbiculata</i> <sup>1</sup> - Asian bittersweet	✗ <i>Coronilla varia</i> <sup>1</sup> - Crown vetch	✓ <i>Zizia aptera</i> , <i>Z. aurea</i> - Golden alexanders ☾ ☾ ● ✿
✓ <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> - Buttonbush ☾ ✿	✗ <i>Clematis terniflora</i> <sup>1</sup> - Sweet autumn clematis	✗ <i>Daucus carota</i> <sup>2</sup> - Queen Anne's lace	<b>Grasses</b>
✓ <i>Clethra acuminata</i> - Mountain pepperbush ☾ ☾ ● ✿	✗ <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> <sup>1</sup> - Wintercreeper	✗ <i>Hemerocallis fulva</i> <sup>2</sup> - Daylily	✗ <i>Arundo donax</i> <sup>w</sup> - Giant reed
✓ <i>Cornus</i> spp. ( <i>amomum</i> , <i>drummondii</i> , <i>racemosa</i> ) - Native dogwoods ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✗ <i>Hedera helix</i> <sup>2</sup> - English ivy	✗ <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> <sup>3</sup> - Dame's rocket	✗ <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> <sup>1</sup> - Tall fescue
✓ <i>Corylus americana</i> - American hazelnut ☾ ● 🍂 🍷	✗ <i>Lonicera japonica</i> <sup>1</sup> - Japanese honeysuckle	✗ <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> <sup>2</sup> - Ox-eye daisy	✗ <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> <sup>1</sup> - Chinese silvergrass
✓ <i>Euonymus</i> spp. ( <i>americanus</i> , <i>atropurpurea</i> ) - Wahoo and Hearts-a-burstin' ☾ 🍂 🍷	✗ <i>Vinca minor</i> <sup>2</sup> - Periwinkle	✗ <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> <sup>1</sup> - Purple loosestrife	✓ <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> - Big bluestem ☾ ☾ ✿ 🍂 🍷
✓ <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> - Witch hazel ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✗ <i>Wisteria floribunda</i> <sup>3</sup> , <i>W. sinensis</i> <sup>3</sup> - Exotic wisterias	✗ <i>Melilotus alba</i> <sup>1</sup> , <i>M. officinalis</i> <sup>1</sup> - Sweetclovers	✓ <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> - River oats ☾ ● 🍂 🍷
✓ <i>Ilex decidua</i> , <i>I. verticillata</i> - Hollies ☾ ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Ampelopsis arborea</i> <sup>v</sup> - Peppervine ☾ ☾ 🍷	✗ <i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i> <sup>2</sup> - Star of Bethlehem	✓ <i>Elymus hystrix</i> - Bottlebrush grass ☾ ● 🍂 🍷
✓ <i>Itea virginica</i> - Virginia sweetspire ☾ ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i> <sup>v</sup> - Dutchman's pipevine ☾ ✿	✗ <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> <sup>1</sup> - Japanese knotweed	✓ <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> - Hairawn muhly ☾ ✿ 🍂 🍷
✓ <i>Lindera benzoin</i> - Spicebush ☾ ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Asarum canadensis</i> <sup>c</sup> - Wild ginger ☾ ● 🍷	✗ <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> <sup>1</sup> - Lesser celandine	✓ <i>Saccharum alopecuroideum</i> - Silver plumegrass ☾ ✿ 🍂 🍷
✓ <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> - Ninebark ☾ ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Bignonia capreolata</i> <sup>v</sup> - Crossvine ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Aruncus dioicus</i> - Goat's beard ☾ ☾ ● ✿	✓ <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> - Little bluestem ☾ ☾ ✿ 🍂 🍷
✓ <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> - Wafer ash ☾ ☾ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷	✓ <i>Carex pensylvanica</i> <sup>c</sup> - Pennsylvania sedge ☾ ☾ ● 🍷	✓ <i>Asclepias</i> spp. ( <i>incarnata</i> , <i>purpurascens</i> , <i>syriaca</i> , <i>tuberosa</i> , <i>verticillata</i> , <i>viridis</i> ) - Milkweeds ☾ ✿	✓ <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> - Indian grass ☾ ☾ ✿ 🍂 🍷
	✓ <i>Celastrus scandens</i> <sup>v</sup> - American bittersweet ☾ ☾ ● 🍷	✓ <i>Baptisia australis</i> - Blue wild indigo ☾ ✿	✓ <i>Tridens flavus</i> - Purpletop ☾ ☾ ✿
	✓ <i>Clematis viorna</i> <sup>v</sup> - Vasevine ☾ ● ✿		
	✓ <i>Clematis virginiana</i> <sup>v</sup> - Virgin's bower ☾ ☾ ● ✿		