

## 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>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> <sup>c</sup> - Christmas fern ☽ ● 🍂  | ✓ <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  | ✓ <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i> <sup>c</sup> - Foam flower ☽ ● ✿ 🍂  | ✓ <i>Zizia aptera</i> , <i>Z. aurea</i> - Golden alexanders ☽ ☽ ● ✿ 🍂  |
| ✓ <i>Aronia</i> spp. ( <i>arbutifolia</i> , <i>melanocarpa</i> ) - Native chokeberries ☽ ✿ 🍂 🍷  | ✗ <i>Celastrus orbiculata</i> <sup>1</sup> - Asian bittersweet   | <b>Herbaceous Plants</b>   |  |
| ✓ <i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> - Buttonbush ☽ ✿ 🍂   | ✗ <i>Clematis terniflora</i> <sup>1</sup> - Sweet autumn clematis  | ✗ <i>Coronilla varia</i> <sup>1</sup> - Crown vetch  |  |
| ✓ <i>Clethra acuminata</i> - Mountain pepperbush ☽ ☽ ● ✿ 🍂  | ✗ <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> <sup>1</sup> - Wintercreeper  | ✗ <i>Daucus carota</i> <sup>2</sup> - Queen Anne's lace  |  |
| ✓ <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>Hemerocallis fulva</i> <sup>2</sup> - Daylily   | <b>Grasses</b>   |
| ✓ <i>Corylus americana</i> - American hazelnut ☽ ● 🍂 🍷  | ✗ <i>Lonicera japonica</i> <sup>1</sup> - Japanese honeysuckle   | ✗ <i>Hesperis matronalis</i> <sup>3</sup> - Dame's rocket  | ✗ <i>Arundo donax</i> <sup>w</sup> - Giant reed  |
| ✓ <i>Euonymus</i> spp. ( <i>americanus</i> , <i>atropurpurea</i> ) - Wahoo and Hearts-a-burstin' ☽ 🍂 🍷  | ✗ <i>Vinca minor</i> <sup>2</sup> - Periwinkle   | ✗ <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> <sup>2</sup> - Ox-eye daisy  | ✗ <i>Festuca arundinacea</i> <sup>1</sup> - Tall fescue  |
| ✓ <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> - Witch hazel ☽ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷   | ✗ <i>Wisteria floribunda</i> <sup>3</sup> , <i>W. sinensis</i> <sup>3</sup> - Exotic wisterias   | ✗ <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> <sup>1</sup> - Purple loosestrife   | ✗ <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> <sup>1</sup> - Chinese silvergrass  |
| ✓ <i>Ilex decidua</i> , <i>I. verticillata</i> - Hollies ☽ ☽ ● ✿ 🍂  | ✓ <i>Ampelopsis arborea</i> <sup>v</sup> - Peppervine ☽ ☽ 🍂  | ✗ <i>Melilotus alba</i> <sup>1</sup> , <i>M. officinalis</i> <sup>1</sup> - Sweetclovers   | ✓ <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> - Big bluestem ☽ ☽ ✿ 🍂 🍷  |
| ✓ <i>Itea virginica</i> - Virginia sweetspire ☽ ✿ 🍂 🍷   | ✓ <i>Aristolochia macrophylla</i> <sup>v</sup> - Dutchman's pipevine ☽ ✿ 🍂   | ✗ <i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i> <sup>2</sup> - Star of Bethlehem  | ✓ <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> - River oats ☽ ● ✿ 🍂  |
| ✓ <i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> - Ninebark ☽ ☽ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷   | ✓ <i>Asarum canadensis</i> <sup>c</sup> - Wild ginger ☽ ● 🍂  | ✗ <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> <sup>1</sup> - Japanese knotweed   | ✓ <i>Elymus hystrix</i> - Bottlebrush grass ☽ ● ✿ 🍂  |
| ✓ <i>Ptelea trifoliata</i> - Wafer ash ☽ ☽ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷  | ✓ <i>Bignonia capreolata</i> <sup>v</sup> - Crossvine ☽ ● ✿ 🍂 🍷  | ✗ <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> <sup>1</sup> - Lesser celandine  | ✓ <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> - Hairawn muhly ☽ ✿ 🍂 🍷   |
|   | ✓ <i>Carex pensylvanica</i> <sup>c</sup> - Pennsylvania sedge ☽ ☽ ● 🍂  | ✓ <i>Aruncus dioicus</i> - Goat's beard ☽ ☽ ● ✿ 🍂  | ✓ <i>Saccharum alopecuroideum</i> - Silver plumegrass ☽ ✿ 🍂 🍷  |
|   | ✓ <i>Celastrus scandens</i> <sup>v</sup> - American bittersweet ☽ ☽ ● 🍂  | ✓ <i>Asclepias</i> spp. ( <i>incarnata</i> , <i>purpurascens</i> , <i>syriaca</i> , <i>tuberosa</i> , <i>verticillata</i> , <i>viridis</i> ) - Milkweeds ☽ ✿ 🍂 | ✓ <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> - Little bluestem ☽ ☽ ✿ 🍂 🍷   |
|   | ✓ <i>Clematis viorna</i> <sup>v</sup> - Vasevine ☽ ● ✿ 🍂   | ✓ <i>Baptisia australis</i> - Blue wild indigo ☽ ✿ 🍂   | ✓ <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> - Indian grass ☽ ☽ ✿ 🍂 🍷   |
|   | ✓ <i>Clematis virginiana</i> <sup>v</sup> - Virgin's bower ☽ ☽ ● ✿ 🍂   |  | ✓ <i>Tridens flavus</i> - Purpletop ☽ ☽ ✿ 🍂  |