

REPLACE YOUR INVASIVES WITH NATIVES SPECIES AND SELECTIONS

Replacing invasive plants is a meaningful step toward healthier, more resilient landscapes. Once invasives are removed, choosing the right replacement helps restore ecological function while keeping the design intent like scale, structure, seasonal interest, and performance. Native plants bring that balance beautifully.

Bailey Nurseries offers curated native species and native selection options that don't spread or cause ecological harm while providing additional benefits like versatile size and habit, pollinators and wildlife resources, reduced water needs, and greater climate adaptability.

At Bailey, we define a native selection as plants derived from North American native species. This includes straight species, cultivated varieties refined from native parentage, and hybrids created solely from two North American native species without the introduction of any non-native genetics. While definitions may differ, our framework reflects a balance between ecological integrity and horticultural performance.

[Explore this guide of common invasive plants and alternatives suitable for the United States and Canada.](#)

Invasive Species - Trees: Siberian Elm - *Ulmus pumila*

Invasive Traits: Rapid growth and establishment, prolific seed production, extreme adaptability, disease vector, hybridizes with native elms

Deemed Invasive by State: AZ, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, NE, NM, NV, OH, OK, OR, PA, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI, and WV

Swap For:

- Common Hackberry Tree (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- American Elm (*Ulmus americana*)
- American Linden (*Tilia americana*)

Or cultivars like:

- Prairie Expedition[®] American Elm
- First Editions[®] St Croix[™] American Elm
- Princeton American Elm
- Frontyard[®] Linden

Comparable Traits:

- Fast-growing shade tree with a similar habit
- Excellent drought tolerance (once established)
- Tolerates urban stress while supporting wildlife



First Editions[®] St Croix[™] American Elm

Invasive Species - Trees: Sycamore Maple - *Acer pseudoplatanus*

Invasive Traits: Extreme shade tolerance, rapid growth and reproduction that allows for high-volume seed production, outcompetes the native understory plants with high adaptability to varying soil conditions

Deemed Invasive by State: CT, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VA

Swap For:

- Common Hackberry Tree (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Box Elder Maple (*Acer negundo*)

Or a cultivar like:

- Apollo[®] Sugar Maple

Comparable Traits:

- Fast growing and brilliant fall color
- Tough, does well in urban environments
- Offer greater ecological benefits



Common Hackberry Tree



Apollo[®] Sugar Maple

Invasive Species - Trees: Amur Maple - *Acer ginnala*

Invasive Traits: Prolific seed production, rapid growth rate, and habitat adaptability allowing it to spread

Deemed Invasive by State: CT, IL, MA, ME, MN, NH, VT, WI

Swap For:

- American Cranberrybush (*Viburnum trilobum*)
- Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)
- MN Strain Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)
- Firespire[®] Muscledwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*)

Comparable Traits:

- Supports pollinators, low maintenance, and adaptable
- Spring bloom and strong fall color
- Multi-stem habit

Noteworthy:

Viburnums produce bird-friendly berries



MN Strain Redbud

Invasive Species- Trees: Norway Maple – *Acer platanoides*

Invasive Traits: Aggressive growth and reproduction, extreme shade tolerance, adaptability to poor and compacted soils allow them to grow in urban environments, and their shallow roots can destroy sidewalks and pavement

Deemed Invasive by State: CT, DC, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD, MI, NJ, OR, PA, TN, VA, VT, WI, and WV

Banned: ME, NH, and NY

Swap For:

- Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- Common Hackberry Tree (*Celtis occidentalis*)
- Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- Tuliptree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- Nothorn Pin Oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*)

Or cultivars like:

- Sun Vally Maple or Red Sunset[®] Maple
- Fall Fiesta[®] Sugar Maple
- First Editions[®] Majestic Skies[™] Northern Pin Oak

Comparable Traits:

- Fast growing and brilliant fall color
- Tough and does well in urban environments
- Provides dense shade

Noteworthy:

Tuliptree flowers in early June, attracting pollinators and hummingbirds



First Editions[®] Majestic Skies[™] Northern Pin Oak

Invasive Species - Trees : Callery Pear (Bradford Pear) - *Pyrus calleryana*

Invasive Traits: Produces large quantities of viable seeds that are widely dispersed by birds, grows rapidly and leafs out earlier than other native species, tolerates poor soils and pollution well

Deemed Invasive by State: AL, DE, IL, MD, MO, NC, PA, SC, and OH

Swap For:

- Pagoda Dogwood - Tree Form (*Cornus alternifolia*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus spp*)
- Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)

Or a cultivar like:

- Winter King Hawthorn

Comparable Traits:

- White spring flowers, pleasantly aromatic
- Nice, compact size
- Significant benefits to wildlife - food source, nectar for pollinators, and shelter



Pagoda Dogwood - Tree Form

Invasive Species - Shrubs: Common Buckthorn - *Rhamnus catartica*

Invasive Traits: Extended growing season, allelopathic effects, extremely resilient, prolific seed production and dispersal, lacks natural predators

Deemed Invasive by State: CO, CT, IA, IL, PA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MT, NH, NY, UT

Swap For:

- Glossy Black Chokeberry
(*Aronia melanocarpa var elata*)
- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*)

Or cultivars like:

- First Editions[®] Standing Ovation[™] Serviceberry
- Hummingbird Summersweet

Comparable Traits:

- Form dense thickets
- Showy white flowers
- Produce dark fruit (*Aronia melanocarpa var elata* and *Amelanchier alnifolia*)



First Editions[®] Standing Ovation[™] serviceberry

Invasive Species - Shrubs: Burning Bush - *Euonymus alatus*

Invasive Traits: Heavy seed production, non-nutritional berries for birds, rapidly dense growth reduces biodiversity

Deemed Invasive by State: DW, MA, ME, MN, NH, NY, PA, VT, WI

Swap For:

- Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
- Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)
- Mount Airy Fothergilla (*Fothergilla major*)

Or cultivars like:

- First Editions[®] Amber Jubilee[™] Ninebark
- First Editions[®] Tiger Eyes[®] Cutleaf Staghorn Sumac

Comparable Traits:

- Excellent fall color
(and varied foliage with ninebark cultivars)
- Interesting bark
- Adaptable to various soils
- Low-maintenance and wildlife-friendly



First Editions[®] Amber Jubilee[™] Ninebark



First Editions[®] Tiger Eyes[®] Cutleaf Staghorn Sumac

Invasive Species - Shrubs: Russian Olive - *Elaeagnus angustifolia*

Invasive Traits: Outcompetes native plants, high water intake, spreads aggressively

Deemed Invasive by State: AZ, CA, CO, CT, ID, KS, MN, MT, NE, NM, NY, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, WI, WY

Swap For:

- Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Silver Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*)

Or a cultivar like:

- First Editions[®] Standing Ovation[™] Serviceberry

Comparable Traits:

- Silvery to gray-green foliage (*Shepherdia argentea*)
- Small, fragrant spring flowers (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
- Tolerant to drought, poor soils, and air pollution



Silver Buffaloberry

Invasive Species - Shrubs: Japanese Barberry - *Berberis thunbergii*

Invasive Traits: Resistant to deer browsing, highly adaptable and can tolerate a variety of conditions, spread rapidly both vegetatively and by abundant seed production that travels long distances by birds and mammals, alters soil pH

Deemed Invasive by State: AL, CT, GA, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MN, NH, NY, PA, SC, VA, VT, WI, and WV

Swap For:

- Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
- Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
- Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)

Or cultivars like:

- First Editions[®] Fireside[®] Ninebark
- First Editions[®] Lucky Devil[®] Ninebark
- First Editions Wildfire[™] Winterberry
- First Editions[®] Love Child[®] Sweetspire

Comparable Traits:

- Offer similar color ranges and sizes
- Berries for wildlife
- Excellent fall color



First Editions[®] Fireside[®] Ninebark



First Editions[®] Lucky Devil[®] Ninebark



First Editions Wildfire[™] Winterberry



First Editions[®] Love Child[®] Sweetspire

REPLACE YOUR INVASIVES WITH NATIVES SPECIES AND SELECTIONS

Invasive Species - Vines: Oriental Bittersweet - *Celastrus orbiculatus*

Invasive Traits: Rapid growth that smothers understory plants and girdles tree trunks, ability to thrive in varied light conditions, and the ability to aggressively self-propagate

Deemed Invasive by State: CT, IA, MA, MN, NH, NY, NC, VT, and WI

Swap For:

- American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)
- Engleman Ivy (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Or a cultivar like:

- First Editions[®] Autumn Revolution[™] Bittersweet (a direct, non-invasive substitute)

Comparable Traits:

- Produce berries for birds
- Similar, if not improved, fall color



First Editions[®] Autumn Revolution[™] Bittersweet



Want more native and native selection options?

Explore the full offering from First Editions[®] Shrubs & Trees in this handy guide: First Editions[®] Native Selections.

Connect with your Bailey Sales Representative to check availability and source these swap-ready alternatives for your next order!