









## American Littoral Society Shore Stewards Fact Sheet – *Native alternatives to invasive plants*

**Many people inadvertently use an invasive for landscaping because they like some characteristic of the plant, like the color of its fruit or flowers, or its blooming time or shape. Here are some native plant alternatives that offer similar features and are better for our local ecosystems.**

These examples were taken from the book *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants* from the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Many more examples can be found on their web site at [www.bbg.org/nativealternatives](http://www.bbg.org/nativealternatives)

Invasive Plant	Native Alternative(s)	Characteristics
Norway Maple ( <i>Acer platanoides</i> )	Red Maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> ) 	Some part of this tree is red all year long and it can tolerate moist soil.
	Black Gum ( <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> )	The foliage is beautiful in the fall and the branches grow perpendicular to the trunk in a somewhat random pattern. Can tolerate very wet soil.

Invasive Plant	Native Alternative(s)	Characteristics
Mimosa (Albizia julibrissin)	River Birch (Betula nigra) 	Peeling bark with multiple forming trunks. Triangular leaves with yellow fall colors.
Princess Tree (Paulownia tomentosa)	Catalpa (Catalpa speciosa) 	Large tree with beautiful showy white tubular flowers. Beautiful heart shaped leaves and cigar shaped pods.
Butterfly Bush (Buddleja davidii)	Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis) 	Large button-like white flowers that attract large numbers of butterflies. Very tolerant of a wide variety of soil conditions.
Winged Euonymus (Euonymus alatus)	Black Chokeberry (Aronia melanocarpa) 	Black fruit persists into winter. Very good for covering large areas and to act as a buffer to filter water.
	Highbush Blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum) 	Will grow in acidic soil and can reach ten feet tall. Beautiful bell shaped flowers cluster in the spring.

Invasive Plant	Native Alternative(s)	Characteristics
Multiflora Rose ( <i>Rosa multiflora</i> )	Prairie Rose ( <i>Rosa setigera</i> ) 	This rose can climb and grow over rocks and fences. Cut back older stalks every couple of years.
Japanese Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera japonica</i> )	Scarlet Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> ) 	Trim to control its growth which can get to 13 feet long. It flowers prolifically.