# AlterNatives

# **Attention Landscapers** and Home Gardeners:

The following "invasive exotic" plants are harmful to our state's natural areas. Avoid using them in your landscapes. Instead, select from the AlterNative species listed in this brochure.

# The "Bad Guys" (a.k.a. Invasive Exotic Plants)

Chinese Tallow Tree: Triadica sebifera (formerly Sapium sebiferum)

Brazilian Pepper: Schinus terebinthifolius

Chinese Ligustrum: Ligustrum sinense

Coral Ardisia: Ardisia crenata

Heavenly Bamboo: Nandina domestica

Elephant Ear, Wild Taro: Colocasia esculenta

Lantana: Lantana camara

Mexican Petunia: Ruellia simplex (formerly Ruellia brittoniana)

Japanese Honeysuckle: Lonicera japonica

Tuberous Sword Fern: Nephrolepis cordifolia

Asparagus Fern: Asparagus aethiopicus

(formerly Asparagus sprengeri)

Wedelia: Sphagneticola trilobata

Turn the page for Eco-Friendly AlterNative Plant Suggestions

### Why Invasive Plants Are a Problem

What is an "Invasive Exotic Plant" and who gets to hand out that label?

The Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) monitors and records the spread and damage of these plants state-wide. Their mission is "to support the management of invasive exotic plants in Florida's natural areas by providing a forum for the exchange of scientific, educational, and technical information." Learn more at www.FLEPPC.org

By the FLEPPC definition, an Invasive Exotic plant is a "species outside of its natural range that displaces native species and disrupts ecosystem processes." In essence, they have become 'problem' plants for Florida's varied ecosystems. They are to be avoided at all costs, especially in urban landscapes and gardens where making a home for them may allow them to escape to nearby natural areas.

The worst offenders: Category I Invasive Exotics
Invasive exotic plants are termed "Category I" when they
"...alter native plant communities by displacing native
species, change plant community structures or ecological
functions, or hybridize with natives." This means they
have become 'problem plants' in Florida and have
required management by a variety of governmental and/
or municipal agencies to prevent them from displacing
and taking over our natural areas. Our state spends an
estimated \$60 million annually on invasive species control
programs.

Also to be avoided: Category II Invasive Exotics
FLEPPC describes Category II invasive exotic plants as
those that "have increased in abundance or frequency
but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to
the extent shown by Category I species. These species
may become ranked Category I, if ecological damage is
demonstrated." See the FLEPPC website to see the list of
Category II plants.

# **AlterNatives for Northeast Florida**

Non-native, invasives species are the #2 threat to imperiled species in the United States. You can enhance the aesthetic value of your landscape and protect Florida's natural resources by removing the non-native invasive plants listed below and replacing them with one of their 'AlterNatives'



photo by Gil Nelson © Inst. for Systematic Botany

AlterNatives (plant these instead)



all color larval food plant for tiger wallowtail and red-spotted purple outterflies, good wildlife food plant

FL Sugar Maple



Shiny Blueberry

Non-Native (ren



Non-Native (remove

photo by Shirley Denton © Shirley Denton

Brazilian pepper

AlterNatives (plant these instead) Ocala Anise



Yaupon Holly

flowers in spring
shade tolerant, pest free
shood screen/hedge
large, evergreen, frought-tolerant
shrub with fragrant foliage
showy red berries in fall/winter

Non-Native (rem

Non-Native (rem

AlterNatives (plant these instead) Forestiera segregat Florida Privet



Myrcianthes fragrans Simpson's Stopper



Yaupon Holly

#### Non-Native (rem



*Ardisia crenata* Coral Ardisia

AlterNatives (plant these instead)

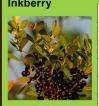




Nandina domestica Heavenly Bamboo

photo by Gil Nelson © Inst. for Systematic Botany

AlterNatives (plant these instead)



rows on low pH soil (sand to peat) low growing evergreen shrub ne textured foliage; 6' mature eight foliage may turn plum-colored winter

Lyonia ferruginea Rusty Lyonia



• upright evergreen shrub 6' - 12' Ht • small, drooping bell-like white flowers in spring • new foliage with rusty brownist cast • very drought-tolerant

• very droug

Psychotria nervosa Wild Coffee



Colocasia esculenta Wild Taro, Elephant Ear

photo by Asit K. Ghosh © Inst. for Systematic Botany

AlterNatives (plant these instead)

Canna flaccida
Nephrolepis biserrata
Southern Marsh Canna Giant Sword Fern

#### Non-Native (remov



Lantana camara Lantana, Shrub Verbena

AlterNatives (plant these instead)



drought tolerant, long-blooming semi-evergreen perennial w no pests & continuous blossoms highly recommended for any garden
 frost kills to ground but recovers with warmer weather



### Non-Native (remove



Ruellia simplex Mexican Petunia

### AlterNatives (plant these instead)





• hardy perennial, blooms profusely throughout extended flowering period • attracts butterflies • fast growth • prefers well drained soils





butterflies
• foliage is shiny and dark, with a nice textural quaity
• readily reseeds and appreciates pruning

Viburnum obovatum 'nana' Dwarf Walter's Viburnum

Lonicera japonica Japanese Honeysuckle

# Non-Native (remo



Gelsemium sempervirens Yellow Jessamine



twining, climbing vine w showy foliage, bright red flowers
 attracts hummingbirds and butterflies

### Non-Native (remo



Nephrolepis cordifolia Tuberous Sword Fern

photo by Shirley Dente

#### AlterNatives (plant these instead)



Thelypteris kunthii Osmunda cinnamome Southern Shield Fern Cinnamon Fern



# Non-Native (remove



Asparagus aethiopicus Asparagus fern photo by Joel Timyan © Inst. for Systematic Botany

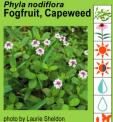
#### AlterNatives (plant these instead) Hypericum tenuifolium Zamia pumila Atlantic St. John's Wort Coontie



# Non-Native (remo



Sphagneticola trilobata Wedelia, Creeping Oxeye photo by Walter K. Taylor © Inst. for Systematic Botan





#### small tree flowering plant shrub ground



**Key to Symbols** 

full sun shade





food and cover • showy red berries in fall/winter

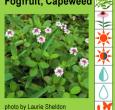


## AlterNatives (plant these instead)



excellent evergreen climbing vine
 beautiful foliage and fragrant
yellow flowers
 fast growth, 30 ft. or more

#### AlterNatives (plant these instead)





### The Wisdom of Landscaping with Native Plants

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) defines a native plant as one present in Florida prior to European contact, which means prior to 1513.

#### Why plant natives?

- Native plants provide food, shelter, and areas of reproduction for our native wildlife, including butterflies, birds and bees.
- Native plants provide a sense of place they remind us of our heritage and the specific part of Florida in which we live.
- Native plants have adapted to regional climate conditions over hundreds of thousands of years. As such, they can tolerate our heat, humidity, rain (or lack thereof), and cold snaps.
- Native plants conserve water, time and energy (and can save you money as a result).
- · Native plants protect our waterways and ground water by filtering chemicals out of runoff.

You can locate and/or purchase any of the plants listed in this brochure with the search feature on either <a href="http://www.plantant.com/">http://www.plantant.com/</a> or <a href="http://www.plantant.com/">http://www.floridanativenurseries.org/</a>

For more information, consult the Florida Native Plant Society at **www.fnps.org** and consider becoming a member. Your membership supports the preservation and restoration of wildlife habitats and biological diversity through the conservation of native plants.

