

Instead of that, plant this!

Acadiana Native Plant Project: www.greauxnative.org

List produced by Lawrence Rozas, PhD, Acadiana Native Plant Project

Instead of That...		...Plant This	
Introduced plant	Why not?	Native plant	Why?
TREES & SHRUBS			
Althea, Rose of Sharon (<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>)	Non-native shrub (12' X 6') introduced to U.S. from Asia; invasive in some states of the Southeastern U.S.	Native Red Hibiscus, Texas Star (<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i>)	Native shrub-like perennial (7' X 6') with hemp-like leaves and scarlet flowers that bloom throughout summer; supports native caterpillars and pollinators; attracts hummingbirds
		Saltmarsh Mallow (<i>Kosteletskya virginica</i>)	Native shrub-like perennial (5' X 6') with pink or white blooms all summer; thrives in full sun and tolerates any soil conditions; supports native caterpillars and pollinators; attracts hummingbirds
Boxwood (<i>Buxus harlandii</i> , <i>B. microphylla</i> , <i>B. sempervirens</i>)	Non-native shrubs from Europe, north Africa, and Asia; susceptible to nematode damage, root fungus, and stem rot; diseases are a serious problem.	Walter's Viburnum (<i>Viburnum obovatum</i> 'Walteri')	A cultivar (6' X 8') of Little-leaf Viburnum, a native shrub of the Northeastern Gulf Rim; produces white clusters of flowers in early spring; tolerates a wide variety of soil types; dense, small leaves; nearly evergreen in southern part of the state; makes an excellent screening hedge; provides food for native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Bradford Flowering Pear, Callery Pear (<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>)	Non-native tree (40' X 25') introduced from Asia by U.S. Department of Agriculture; highly invasive, especially in Northeast U.S.; Weak wood, vulnerable to wind damage and fireblight; little to no wildlife value	American Fringe Tree, Grancy Greybeard (<i>Chionanthus virginica</i>)	Attractive, native tree (25' X 15'); produces fragrant panicles of fringe-like, white flowers March - April; dioecious and male flowers are more showy; tolerant of most soil types; flowers best in full sun; produces pollen, nectar, and fruit for butterflies, other native insects, and birds
		Serviceberry, Shadbush (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>)	Small (12' X 6') native tree with fragrant, white flowers that blooms in early spring; striking autumn foliage color; produces pollen, nectar, and fruit for butterflies, other native insects, and birds
		Flowering Dogwood (<i>Cornus florida</i>)	Beautiful, small native tree (20' X 12'); very popular, but not easily cultivated, especially in the lower South; requires high, soft shade and well-drained, acidic soils; vulnerable to drought conditions and susceptible to anthracnose disease; established trees produce lovely white or pink bracts in early spring and red fruit in fall; pollen, nectar, and fruit support butterflies, other native insects, and birds
Burning Bush (<i>Euonymus alatus</i>)	Non-native deciduous shrub (15' X 10') introduced from Asia in 1860s; Not well adapted to the lower South, where winters are too mild and rainfall too high for this species	Possumhaw (<i>Viburnum nudum</i>)	Native shrub (7' X 5') tolerant of any soil conditions; thrives in part shade; attractive fall foliage (yellow, orange, red); plant supports native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
		American Beauty Berry (<i>Callicarpa americana</i>)	Native shrub (6' X 6') tolerant of most soil conditions and any light exposure from shade to full sun; yellow foliage color in fall; attractive purple (or white) fruit clusters fall - winter; plant supports native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Butterfly Bush (<i>Buddleia davidii</i>)	Non-native shrub (5' x 5') introduced from Asia; invasive in 20 U.S. states; no support for caterpillars	Arrowwood (<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>)	Native shrub (8' X 6') with creamy-white flowers that blooms in spring; attractive fall foliage color; produces pollen, nectar, and fruit for butterflies, other native insects, and birds

		Summersweet (<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>)	Large (10' X 6') native shrub with fragrant, creamy-white flowers that blooms in summer; attractive autumn foliage color; produces pollen and nectar for butterflies and other native insects; food for caterpillars
		Virginia Sweetspire (<i>Itea virginica</i>)	Small native shrub (5' X 4'); attractive as understory plant within naturalistic landscapes; stoloniferous, therefore will quickly spread, especially within raised flower beds; tolerates wet soils, part shade to full sun; spikes of frilly white flowers produced in spring; attractive orange-red foliage in fall; produces pollen, nectar, and fruit for butterflies, other native insects, and birds
		Buttonbush (<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>)	Native, wetland shrub (9' X 7'); tolerates flooded soils, but can be successfully grown anywhere; attractive in a garden setting; flowers best in full sun; white, spherical flowers bloom in summer and attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and other pollinators;
Crape Myrtle (<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>)	Non-native shrub or small tree (20' X 15') introduced from China; vulnerable to mildew sooty mold, and aphids; difficult to remove once established; no support for pollinators or birds	Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum (<i>Viburnum rufidulum</i>)	Small native tree (12' X 10') with glossy green leaves and clusters of white flowers that bloom in spring; striking fall color when leaves turn orange to burgundy; flowers, foliage, and fruit support native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Drake Elm, Chinese Elm, Lacebark Elm (<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>)	Non-native, tree (35' X 20') from China and Japan; newly planted tree susceptible to wind damage if not staked for support	Cedar Elm (<i>Ulmus crassifolia</i>)	Louisiana native tree (45' X 30') tolerant of most soil conditions; excellent shade tree worthy of more widespread use in the landscape; resistant to Dutch elm disease; drought tolerant; clean, neat tree
Mimosa (<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>)	Non-native tree (25' X 25') introduced to U.S. in 1745 from Asia; Invasive throughout Southeastern U.S.; difficult to control once established	Sweetbay Magnolia (<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>)	Native, nearly evergreen tree (30' X 20'); leaves light green above and silvery white below; flowers, which bloom in spring, emit outstanding fragrance; thrives in full sun and tolerates most soil types; provides cover for wildlife and support for native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Nandina (<i>Nandina domestica</i>)	Non-native shrub (8' X 4') introduced to U.S. from Asia in early 1800s; Invasive in Southeastern U.S.; planted widely as an ornamental and often escapes to natural areas; shade tolerance allows this plant to invade woodlands	Strawberry Bush (<i>Euonymus americana</i>)	Native shrub (5' X 3') with dark green foliage; tolerates most soil conditions and thrives in part shade; attractive fall foliage; fruit also attractive and provides food for native birds and mammals; supports native caterpillars
Russian Olive (<i>Elaeagnus augustifolia</i>)	Non-native tree (20' X 20') from Asia; invasive, noxious weed in some parts of the U.S.; susceptible to powdery mildew	Walter's Viburnum (<i>Viburnum obovatum 'Walteri'</i>)	A cultivar (6' X 8') of Little-leaf Viburnum, a native shrub of the Northeastern Gulf Rim; produces white clusters of flowers in early spring; tolerates a wide variety of soil types; dense, small leaves; nearly evergreen in southern part of the state; makes an excellent screening hedge; provides food for native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Thorny Olive, Silverthorn, Russian Olive (<i>Elaeagnus pungens</i>)	Non-native shrub (15' X 18') from China and Japan; invasive, noxious weed in some parts of the U.S.; prone to powdery mildew	Southern Wax myrtle (<i>Morela pumila</i>)	Native evergreen tree (15' X 12') that produces wax-covered fruit eaten by many birds, especially yellow-rumped warbler; tolerates a wide variety of soil types; makes an excellent screening hedge

Waxleaf Ligustrum (<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>)	Non-native, small evergreen tree (20' X 15') from Japan and Korea; invasive to many parts of the U.S.; birds spread seeds; leaves and berries are poisonous when ingested; some are allergic to its pollen; white flies are a major problem.	Ms. Schiller's Delight Viburnum (<i>Viburnum obovatum</i> 'Ms. Schiller's Delight')	A cultivar of Little-leaf Viburnum, which reportedly does not run, but maintains a compact, rounded shape (6' X 5'), ideal for use in flower beds. This shrub also produces white clusters of flowers in early spring; tolerates a wide variety of soil types; dense, small leaves; nearly evergreen in southern part of the state; provides food for native caterpillars, pollinators, and birds
Chinese Privet, Common Privet (<i>Ligustrum sinensis</i>)	Non-native shrub (15' X 20') introduced from China in 1852 as an ornamental; aggressively invasive throughout the Southeastern U.S.; forms dense thickets and shades out native understory plants; extremely difficult to eradicate from natural areas once established		
VINES			
Chinese Wisteria (<i>Wisteria sinensis</i>); Japanese Wisteria (<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>)	Non-native vines introduced into the U.S. from China in 1816 and Japan in 1830; highly invasive in 19 U.S. states; both displace native plants by covering them and limiting light availability; also can kill trees and shrubs by girdling them; aggressive growth also may damage buildings	American Wisteria (<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>)	Native deciduous vine with fragrant blue, purple, or white flowers that bloom April - August. Not aggressive like the non-native species. Provides support for native pollinators and caterpillars.
Japanese Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera japonica</i>)	Aggressive invasive vine introduced into the U.S. from Asia in 1806. Girdle small trees by twining around them and forming dense mats that block light to plants below	Coral Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera sempervirens</i>)	Native vine that produces beautiful red and yellow flowers during summer; tolerant of most soil types and part shade; flowers used as nectar source by hummingbirds; plant also supports native caterpillars, pollinators, and other birds
		Passion Vine "Maypop" (<i>Passiflora incarnata</i>)	Native, tendril-climbing vine; tolerant of most soil types; complex, pink-lavender flowers produced mid-summer to fall; flowers best in full sun; host plant for caterpillars of Gulf Fritillary, Variegated Fritillary, and Zebra butterflies
English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	Non-native introduced into U.S. from Europe; Invasive throughout Southeastern U.S.; Vines climb into trees and block light below, which may eventually kill them	Crossvine (<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>)	Native evergreen vine that blooms in the early spring; attractive red and yellow flowers that produce nectar used by hummingbirds; plants also support native caterpillars, pollinators, mammals, and other birds
HERBACEOUS PLANTS			
Yellow Flag Iris (<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>)	Non-native introduced to the U.S. from Asia, North Africa or Western Europe; an aggressive invasive, forms large clonal colonies that replace native species including native irises; plants contain glycosids, which are toxic to grazing animals; species is spread by rhizomes and seeds	Louisiana Native Irises Abbeville = <i>I. nelsonii</i> Blue flag = <i>Iris giganticaerulea</i> Copper = <i>I. fulva</i> , <i>I. hexagona</i> ZigZag = <i>I. brevicaulis</i>	Our native irises are an excellent choice for your landscape; they bloom in March and April in a variety of colors, depending on species; found naturally in marsh, swamp, and other wetlands, but can be grown in raised beds or naturalized landscapes if provided water during dry conditions; support native caterpillars and birds; <i>I. fulva</i> produces nectar used by hummingbirds

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