

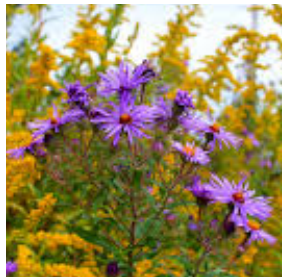
Instead of...

Butterfly Bush is a favorite garden plant that attracts pollinators, including butterflies. Scientists have determined that its nectar is high in sucrose and low in the nutrients needed by our native pollinators. Planting a variety of native pollinator plants is a much better choice



Plant...

A variety of herbaceous native perennials to provide nectar throughout the seasons: **Beardtongue, Butterflyweed, New York or New England Asters, or Goldenrod**



Instead of...

Japanese Silvergrass is commonly used in home landscapes and has escaped cultivation in many places. It does not support native insects and forms dense colonies that prevent native plants from growing.



Instead of...

Privets have been used throughout the U.S. as hedges and small ornamental trees. They have escaped from cultivation into open areas where they form dense thickets that shade out native shrubs. Their leaves contain phenolic compounds that are not tolerated by native insects and do not support any butterfly/moth caterpillars.



Plant...

Black Haw grows in dry to wet soil and sun to shade. Its white blooms light up the woods in the spring along the creeks and rivers in Calvert Co. Reaching a height of 12-24' it can be pruned. The blooms attract bees and birds eat the berries in the fall.



Plant...

Switchgrass A native clumping grass that is 3-6' tall, Switchgrass grows wild on sandy hillsides in Calvert County. Pale pink blooms in late summer produce seeds eaten by birds and it is larval host to two Skippers. Its deep roots provide erosion control.



Enemies of St Leonards Creek

(And what to put in their place)



Also called **Mimosa** (left), the Silk tree grows quickly and crowds out native trees and shrubs. If you have this or plan to use this in your yard, do not fear! There are several fun native alternatives, like the **Buttonbush** (right). At 12' in height, bearing white, ball-like blooms in July that attract butterflies and native bees, and two species of Sphinx moth caterpillars, you are sure to enjoy this lively replacement!

Instead of...

Chinese Wisteria

tolerates a variety of soil and moisture conditions. It has escaped to the woods where it grows around trees, killing them by girdling or by sheer weight. On the ground, it forms dense thickets, keeping out other plants.



Plant...

American Wisteria grows in the Maryland Coastal Plain in moist to wet soil in sun to part shade. Much better behaved, it grows 10-20' and has natural controls, unlike its Oriental cousin. The bloom period lasts 2-4 weeks in the spring.

Instead of...

Callery Pear

'Bradford' grows 30-50 ft. tall, blooms early in the spring before leaves set. The fruits are eaten and spread by birds. It spreads by suckers and by seed, forming a thicket that crowds out native plants.



Plant...

Trumpet Honeysuckle

Our brilliant red and yellow honeysuckle attracts hummingbirds and pollinators and serves as host plant to Spring Azure and Snowberry Clearwing Moth caterpillars. Birds eat seeds. Grow in full sun to some shade in dry to moist soils.



Instead of...

Japanese Honeysuckle is one of our most wide-ranging invasive plants. It lines the roadsides, forming dense mats that crowd out other plants and kills small trees and shrubs by girdling. Seeds are spread by birds. The yellow and white blooms are highly fragrant.

Plant...

Black Cherry grows wild in Calvert County and is one of our most beneficial trees. Panicles of white blooms appear in early May, and the berries that ripen by late June are eaten by birds and squirrels. Cherries support 450 species of butterfly/moth caterpillars.

Instead of...



Plant...

American Bittersweet is hard to find but it does grow wild in our area. The fruit are clustered at the tips of the twigs instead of along the vine like the Oriental Bittersweet. It grows in sun to shade in dry to moist soil along fences and at forest edges. Birds and small mammals eat the berries.



Oriental Bittersweet planted as an ornamental vine, has escaped cultivation and now grows along forest edges. The orange berries can be seen while driving along roadways in the fall. Trees can be uprooted from the weight of the vines and small trees killed by girdling.



Want to know more about natives in our area? Check out this QR code to see a list from the University of Maryland!