

Croton alabamensis
Alabama croton

Invasive plants negatively impact our natural areas and neighborhoods. While most of the non-native species introduced to the United States for use as ornamentals, forage, erosion control, and other uses are generally well-behaved, some have escaped cultivation and become weedy pests. Some have spread to the extent that they now threaten our native ecosystems and reduce the productivity of our forests, agricultural lands and waterways. The damage caused by invasive plants and efforts to manage these difficult to control species costs billions of dollars each year.

Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve and the affiliated organizations listed on the back panel encourage Alabama home/land owners, nursery owners, landscape designers/architects, and landscapers to reduce their use of plants shown to be invasive.

The following species, many of which are readily available commercially, are spreading within Ruffner Mountain and other parks and green spaces in the Birmingham metro area. We encourage phasing out their use wherever possible. While an exact substitute with all of the same traits may not exist for each species, a potential alternative for each species is suggested. In addition to reducing the spread of invasive plants, a landscape rich in native plants sustains insect and wildlife biodiversity. As our cities and suburbs continue to sprawl and native habitat is lost, the plants we use in our yards and landscapes really can make a difference!

MORE INFORMATION

For a comprehensive list of invasive plants in Alabama visit the Alabama Invasive Plant Council's web page:
www.se-eppc.org/alabama.

Also visit:

www.ruffnermountain.org/conservation/invasive-species.html

www.bbgardens.org/invasives

Native and Exotic List References: *Gardening with Native Plants of the South*, 1994, Sally Wasowski, Taylor Trade Publishing; Tennessee's Native Plant Alternatives to Exotic Plants: <http://www.tneppc.org/system/uploads/40/original/alternatives-brochure-rev-5-07.pdf>; Gardensmart Plantwise: <http://www.beplantwise.org/tools/alternatives.php>

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS
enhancing life with plants



This brochure was designed & printed courtesy of Birmingham Botanical Gardens and was printed using vegetable-based inks. Please recycle. 10/2011.

HOW GREEN IS YOUR GARDEN?

Remove Invasives.
Grow Natives.

Aesculus parviflora - white or bottlebrush buckeye

NATIVE PLANT ALTERNATIVES FOR INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

INVASIVE TREES	ALTERNATIVE NATIVE TREES
Callery Pear/Bradford Pear (<i>Pyrus calleryana</i>)	• serviceberry (<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>) • parsley hawthorn (<i>Crataegus marshallii</i>) • fringetree (<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>)
Chinese Parasol Tree (<i>Firmiana simplex</i>)	• bigleaf magnolias (<i>Magnolia asheii</i> , <i>M. macrophylla</i>) • basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>)
Mimosa/Silktree (<i>Albizia julibrissin</i>)	• two-winged silverbell (<i>Halesia diptera</i> var. <i>magniflora</i>) • thornless honeylocust (<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var. <i>inermis</i>)
Princess Tree (<i>Paulownia tomentosa</i>)	• southern calalpa (<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>) • red buckeye (<i>Aesculus pavia</i>)
Sawtooth Oak (<i>Quercus acutissima</i>)	• Nuttall oak (<i>Quercus texana</i>) • chestnut oak (<i>Q. montana</i>) • a dozen other native oaks
Tallowtree/Popcorn tree (<i>Triadica sebifera</i>)	• sourwood (<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>) • blackgum (<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>) • red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)
Tree-of-Heaven (<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>)	• pecan (<i>Carya illinoensis</i>) • black locust (<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>) • winged sumac (<i>Rhus copallinum</i>)
INVASIVE SHRUBS	ALTERNATIVE NATIVE SHRUBS
Burning Bush (<i>Euonymus alatus</i>)	• sparkleberry (<i>Vaccinium arboreum</i>) • Virginia willow (<i>Itea virginica</i>)
Chinese Privet (<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>)	• native viburnums (<i>Viburnum obovatum</i> , <i>V. dentatum</i>) • wax myrtle/southern bayberry (<i>Morella cerifera</i>)
Heavenly Bamboo/Nandina (<i>Nandina domestica</i>)	• evergreen blueberry (<i>Vaccinium darrowii</i>) • wild rosemary (<i>Conradina canescens</i>) • dwarf rhododendron (<i>Rhododendron minus</i>)
Japanese and Glossy Privet (<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i> and <i>L. lucidum</i>)	• yellow or Florida anise (<i>Illicium parviflorum</i> , <i>I. floridanum</i>) • yaupon (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>)
Non-native Olives (<i>Elaeagnus</i> spp.)	• devilwood (<i>Osmanthus americanus</i>) • Alabama croton (<i>Croton alabamensis</i>) • American beautyberry (<i>Callicarpa am.</i>)
Oregon Grape/Leatherleaf Mahonia (<i>Mahonia bealei</i>)	• inkberry (<i>Ilex glabra</i>) • Florida hobblebush (<i>Agarista populifolia</i>)
INVASIVE GRASSES OR GRASS-LIKE	ALTERNATIVE NATIVE GRASSES
Chinese Silvergrass (<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>) varieties w/viable seed	• muhly grass (<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>) • splitbeard bluestem (<i>Andropogon ternarius</i>) • wavy hair grass (<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>)
Cogon Grass, Japanese Blood Grass (<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> vars.)	• red switchgrass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Shenandoah' and other cultivars) • Indian grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>)
Monkey Grass (<i>Liriope</i> spp.)	• blue wood sedge (<i>Carex flaccosperma</i>) & other sedges • blue-eyed grass (<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>)
Non-native Bamboos (<i>Phyllostachys</i> spp.)	• Indian grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>) • sugarcane plume grass (<i>Eriarthus giganteus</i>) • switchcane (<i>Arundinaria gigantea</i>)
VINES	ALTERNATIVE NATIVE VINES
Chinese and Japanese Wisterias (<i>Wisteria sinensis</i> , <i>W. floribunda</i>)	• American Wisteria (<i>Wisteria frutescens</i>) • Carolina jessamine (<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>)
English Ivy (<i>Hedera helix</i>)	• Jacksonvine (<i>Smilax smalii</i>) • wild sasparilla (<i>Smilax pumila</i>)
Oriental Bittersweet (<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>)	• climbing hydrangea (<i>Decumaria barbara</i>) • crossvine (<i>Bignonia capreolata</i>)
Periwinkles (<i>Vinca major</i> , <i>Vinca minor</i>)	• partridge berry (<i>Mitchella repens</i>) • creeping or moss phlox (<i>Phlox stolonifera</i> , <i>P. subulata</i>)