

Native plant species as alternatives to invasive species

Garden Escapee / Common Name / Botanical Name	Comments And Suggested Alternative Plantings
Agapanthus <i>Agapanthus praecox ssp. Orientalis</i>	Very invasive. Spreads by rhizomes forming thick clumps or by 100's of seeds. Leaves and rhizomes are toxic. Alternative: Spiny-headed Mat rush - <i>Lomandra longifolia</i>; Tasman Flax Lily - <i>Dianella tasmanica</i>
Arum Lily (Calla Lily, Death Lily, Funeral Flower, Lily of the Nile, Pig Lily) <i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Thick rhizomous roots. Seeds spread by birds and other animals Alternative: Kangaroo Paws – <i>Anigozanthus spp.</i>; Elephants Ears – <i>Alocasia macrorrhiza</i>
Blue Periwinkle (Greater Periwinkle, Periwinkle, Soccer's Violet, Vinca) <i>Vinca major</i>	Forms dense mats and can smother other desirable plants. Able to spread rapidly in heavily shaded conditions. Stem fragments can regrow. Alternative: Creeping Boobialla – <i>Myoporum parvifolium</i>; Native Sarsaparilla or Happy Wanderer or Purple Coral Pea – <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>
Box Elder (Ash-Leaf Maple, Black Maple, Box Elder Maple) <i>Acer negundo</i>	Fast growing deciduous tree. Male and Female flowers on different plants. Winged seeds. Alternative: Prickly-leaved paperbark – <i>Melaleuca styphelioides</i>; Cherry Ballart – <i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>
Broom, Cape (Canary Broom, French Broom, Genista, Montpellier Broom) <i>Genista monspessulana</i> NOXIOUS	Forms dense stands excluding other vegetation. High seed germination after fire Alternative: Hop Goodenia - <i>Goodenia ovata</i>; Golden Tip - <i>Goodia lotifolia</i>
Broom, English (Broom, Common Broom, Scotch Broom, Spanish Broom) <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> NOXIOUS	Invades bushland, particularly after disturbance Alternative: Hop Goodenia - <i>Goodenia ovata</i>; Golden Tip - <i>Goodia lotifolia</i>
Cherry Laurel <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Produces berries that are dispersed by birds. Stems root when touch ground. Alternative: Lilly Pilly - <i>Acmena smithii</i>
Cootamundra Wattle <i>Acacia baileyana</i>	Seeds spread via birds, wind and are long lived in the soil. Invasive after fire Alternative: Buxton Gum-Eucalyptus crenulata; Silver Wattle - <i>Acacia dealbata</i>
Cotoneaster <i>Cotoneaster sp</i>	Produces berries that are readily dispersed by birds. Berries can be poisonous. Cotoneasters sucker readily. Very invasive. Alternative: Prickly Currant Bush - <i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>; Lilly Pilly - <i>Acmena smithii</i>; Sweet Bursaria - <i>Bursaria spinosa</i>
Desert Ash (Narrow Leaf Ash) <i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Suckers freely from roots. Can escape into riparian vegetation forming dense colonies, displacing native vegetation and affecting water quality Alternative: Blackwood - <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>
English Ivy (Canary Ivy, Common Ivy, Ivy) <i>Hedera helix</i>	Spread by seed and stems. Stems reshoot at nodes when cut. Climbing stems have roots along the underside, slowly killing trees due to its weight and increased fungal infection caused by ivy roots penetrating host plant bark. Only becomes reproductive when climbing. Produces berries readily dispersed by birds. Fruits can survive mulch decomposition process and germinate in spread mulch. Forms dense mats and prevents revegetation of native species Alternative: Wonga Wonga Vine - <i>Pandorea pandorana</i>; Native Sarsaparilla or Happy Wanderer or Purple Coral Pea – <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>
Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Produces berries readily dispersed by birds. Plants can grow in heavy shade and can form impenetrable thickets. Broken stem pieces may re-shoot Alternative: Pink flowering yellow gum - <i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> 'Pink'
Japanese Honeysuckle (Gold and Silver Flower, Hall's Honeysuckle) <i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Stems produce roots when at nodes when they contact soil. Produce berries which are easily dispersed by birds and other animals. Berries are poisonous and leaves may be toxic. Cut stumps reshoot. Very invasive. Alternative: Running Postman - <i>Kennedia prostrata</i>; Native Sarsaparilla or Coral pea - <i>Hardenbergia violacea</i>
Morning Glory (Blue Dawn Flower, Common Morning Glory, Purple Morning Glory) <i>Ipomoea indica</i>	Forms dense blanket that smothers other vegetation. Rhizomes are capable of sprouting months after removal from ground. Stems produce roots at nodes when they contact soil. Alternative: Australian Bindweed - <i>Convolvulus erubescans</i>; Kennedia prostrata - <i>Running Postman</i>
Portugal Laurel <i>Prunus lusitanica</i>	Evergreen, can invade bushland and riparian sites. Seeds can be toxic, can spread by suckers Alternative: Lilly Pilly – <i>Acmena smithii</i>
Sallow Wattle (Coast Wattle) <i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Indigenous to Eastern Victoria, seeds prolifically and spreads rapidly into bushland. High seed germination after fire Alternative: Sticky Wattle - <i>Acacia howittii</i>
Silver Poplar (Silver-Leaf Poplar, White Poplar) <i>Populus alba</i>	Often sends up numerous suckers forming dense thickets. Suckering stimulated when soil disturbed Alternative: Sticky Wattle - <i>Acacia howittii</i>
Sweet Pittosporum <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Native to Eastern Victoria but now a widely spread environmental weed. Prevents growth around it by producing toxic chemicals. Produces berries which are readily spread by birds and other animals Alternative: Lilly Pilly – <i>Acmena smithii</i>; Native Frangipani – <i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>
Sycamore Maple (Great Maple, Greif Tree, Maple, Purple Sycamore, Sycamore) <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Fast growing and very invasive-spread by winged seed Alternative: Lilly Pilly – <i>Acmena smithii</i>
Tree of Heaven <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> NOXIOUS	Fast growing deciduous tree forming dense thickets. Winged seeds. Also spreads from suckering from shoots. Water contaminated by fallen leaves toxic to humans Alternative: Sticky Wattle - <i>Acacia howittii</i>
Willows (Black, Basket, Crack, Grey Sallow, Wild Pussy Willow, Grey Willow, Weeping) <i>Salix species</i> (Black, Crack, Grey Sallow) SOME NOXIOUS	Most species can spread by stem fragments and can block water flows. Some produce seeds, and some spread by root suckering. Reduces water quality when defoliates increasing water nutrients and causing algal blooms and deoxygenation killing fish and aquatic organisms. Reduce platypus habitat. Readily hybridise with other Willow taxa Alternative: Drooping She-oak - <i>Casuarina stricta</i>; Narrow-leaf Bower or River Wattle - <i>Acacia cognata</i>

(Note that there are numerous plants that could be substituted for the above listed invasive weeds and that this list provides only one or two alternatives)

NOXIOUS = Proclaimed noxious under Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994. The Act requires landholders both public and private to control noxious weeds on their land