



Serviceberry (Photo by Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org)

ALTERNATIVES FOR INVASIVE PLANTS

So you got rid of your invasive plants! What do you replace them with? Here are some native alternatives that will keep your yard beautiful and the planet healthy!

Instead of Callery pear (or any of the varieties such as Bradford or Cleveland or other innocuous-sounding names they try to slap on it), plant serviceberry, *Amelanchier arborea*. This native tree grows well in shade or in sun. The flowers provide early nectar for a number of pollinators and the fruit is eaten by bluebirds, orioles, yellow-shafted flickers, scarlet tanagers, hermit thrushes, Eastern kingbirds, downy woodpeckers and chickadees. Humans also enjoy the fruit!



Serviceberry (Photo by Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org)

Instead of Chinese privet (or any other *Ligustrum* species), plant mapleleaf viburnum, *Viburnum acerifolium*. This native shrub grows in shade or partial sun and compliments yards with a dense canopy and a layer of understory trees. The fruits provide food for lots of wildlife, including wild turkey, bluebirds, cardinals, crested flycatchers, brown thrashers, hermit thrushes, cedar waxwings, pileated woodpeckers and white-tailed deer. Flowers and immature fruit provide food for the caterpillar of Henry's elfin butterfly.



Mapleleaf viburnum (Photo by Elmer Verhasselt, Bugwood.org)

Instead of *Ailanthus*, plant scarlet buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*. This small tree grows best in partial shade. Hummingbirds and bees visit the flowers, and the nuts are spread by squirrels.



Scarlet buckeye (Photo by John Ruter, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org)

Instead of Japanese honeysuckle, plant our native coral honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*. It grows in partial or full sun and can be trained on an arbor or a fence. Hummingbirds enjoy the long, tubular flowers, but bees and butterflies also visit these flowers. The fruits are eaten by quail, purple finches, goldfinches, hermit thrushes and robins. The caterpillar of the spring azure butterfly feeds on the foliage of this vine.



Coral honeysuckle (Photo by Paul Wray, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org)