

# PLANT THIS *Not That...*

## INVASIVE PLANTS

### *Pull-Out Reference Guide*

PLANT THIS

*Not That*



This special pull-out section contains Idaho's Invasive Plants that you may see in your landscape. All plants listed are extremely hard to get rid of, multiply fast and tend to take over in most planted areas in Idaho. Help phase out these plants by choosing alternatives that are non-invasive and stay where they are put in your landscapes and gardens.

**Help Stamp Out Invasive  
Plants!**

*CARBON PHASE OUT  
Invasive Plants to Phase Out*

## MEDITERRANEAN SAGE

*Salvia aethiopsis*



**INVASIVE**

Mediterranean sage is an erect, coarse biennial or short-lived perennial, with a stout taproot. When crushed, a sage-like odor is emitted. Flowering stems bolt as a single, squarish stalk, developing into a much-branched inflorescence, with many small white flowers. The whole inflorescence resembles a candelabra.



IDAHO STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED  
INVASIVE

## Alternative

### WORMWOOD OR SAGEBRUSH

*Artemisia species*

This eye-catching perennial shrub tolerates some drought, some salt and will grow in moist soil but prefers a well-drained or sandy soil. It prefers sun to partial shade and is a good shrub for gray-green color nearer the back of a planting bed. The aroma of this plant is the sage scent experienced in Idaho deserts. This plant grows 3-5 feet in height and 3-5 feet in spread.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative

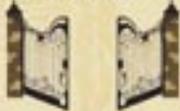
### LAVENDER COTTON

*Santolina chamaecyparissus*

Mullein is a hairy biennial plant that can grow to 6 feet tall. Its small yellow flowers are densely grouped on a tall stem, which bolts from a large rosette of leaves. It grows in a wide variety of habitats, but prefers well-lit disturbed soils, where it can appear soon after the ground receives light. It rarely becomes aggressively invasive, since its seed require open ground to germinate.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative

### SILVER SAGE

*Salvia argentea*

This eye-catching perennial plant tolerates some drought, some salt and will grow in moist soil but prefers a well-drained or sandy soil. It prefers sun to partial shade and is a good border or ground cover plant. The gray-greenish silver foliage is striking against darker plants. It is very soft to the touch. This plant grows 1-2 feet in height and 2-3 feet in spread.



ALTERNATIVE



### Additional Recommended Alternatives

*Salvia nemorosa* cultivars - Garden Sage

*Salvia x sylvestris* - Wood Sage

CARLENNING  
Herbaceous Perennial

## KNOTWEEDS

*Polygonum species*  
Giant, Bohemian,  
Himalayan, & Japanese



INVASIVE

Knotweeds are emersed plants, and there are many species. Knotweeds grow in marshes and swamps, wet forests and ditches. A distinguishing characteristic of knotweed is its swollen nodes where the leaves meet the stems. Leaves are lance-shaped, narrow, and willow-like. The leaf bases form sheaths that surround the stem. Leaves are alternately attached. Knotweed flowers are small and pinkish or white, and grow in terminal spikes that typically are several inches long.



IDAHO STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED  
INVASIVE

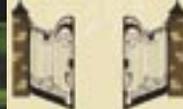
## Alternative WESTERN MEADOW RUE

*Thalictrum occidentale*

This erect perennial grows to 3 feet tall. The leaves have a bluish-white cast and are deeply toothed or lobed. The flowers are greenish to purplish appearing from May to July. This plant likes moist, open to shaded sites, in the foothills up to subalpine areas.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative MOUNTAIN SNOWBERRY

*Symphoricarpos oreophyllus*

This is a native snowberry, 2-5 feet high by 3-5 feet wide. Small oval-shaped leaves; green to gray-green. White fruit is very evident when fruiting. This plant prefers well-drained soils and does not sucker. Great for shady areas but does best in full sun to part shade. Nice small to medium sized shrub.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative DIABLO NINEBARK

*Physocarpus opulifolius 'Diablo'*

A 3-6' short deciduous shrub. The flowers are yellow and scented, blooming from April to May and drawing hummingbirds. It is native to moist areas and does well in sun to part shade. It can tolerate standing in water to drought. It is a very tolerant plant and can stand sitting in water to being in a drought. The fruit is the size of blueberries, 1 cm or less with excellent flavor.



ALTERNATIVE



### Additional Recommended Alternatives

Ocean Spray - *Holodiscus discolor*

Western Spirea - *Spiraea douglasii*

CARBONIFEROUS Perennial

## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

*Lythrum salicaria*

Purple loosestrife is a perennial, 3-7 feet tall with a dense bushy growth of 1-50 stems.

The stems, which range from green to purple, die back each year. Showy flowers vary from purple to magenta, and bloom from July to September.



IDAHO STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED  
INVASIVE

## Alternative DENSE BLAZING STAR

*Liatris spicata*

A tall spike of rose-purple (sometimes white), closely set flower heads. Leaves are linear and crowded at the base of the plant with upper leaves progressively smaller. Flowers July through September. This plant likes moist ground like that in meadows and prairies. Nice addition to perennial gardens because of its spiky appearance.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative BEE BALM 'JACOB KLINE'

*Monarda didyma "Jacob Kline"*

This Bee Balm has showy scarlet blooms that hummingbirds love. It's a strong-growing perennial that likes moisture, and will grow in sun or partial shade. "Jacob Kline" is not a man-made hybrid, but a natural selection of wild bee balm, now famous for its mildew-resistance. Blooming begins in mid-summer, and if you cut off spent flowers for about three weeks, you'll extend the blooming into fall.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative TALL PHILOX

*Phlox paniculata*

This 1-6 ft. perennial has showy, red flowers in 8 inch long terminal spikes. Each flower has three spreading lower petals and two upper petals, all united into a tube at the base. Erect leafy stems, resembling flaming red spires. Since most insects find it difficult to navigate the long tubular flowers, Cardinal Flower depends on hummingbirds, which feed on the nectar, for pollination.



ALTERNATIVE



*Additional Recommended Alternatives:*

Anise Hyssop - *Agastache foeniculum*

CARLEPERENNIAL  
Herbaceous Perennial

## OXEYE DAISY

*Leucanthemum vulgare*

A creeping herbaceous perennial in the aster family (Asteraceae) 1 to 3 feet tall. Flowers occur singly at the ends of stems and bloom from June to August. A typical plant produces over 500 seeds that spread by wind or animals and remain viable in the seedbank for 2-3 years. The root system is comprised of shallow, un-branched roots and rhizomes. Plants reproduce by roots and seeds.



**INVASIVE**



IDAHO STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED  
INVASIVE

## Alternative COREOPSIS OR TICKSEED

*Coreopsis species*

All are very heavy bloomers and make nice cut flowers. Give the thread-leaf types a hard shearing to promote re-bloom. Blooms June to July with some blooming until fall. Will grow in dry to moist soil but prefers well-drained, loamy, sandy or clay soils. Good for naturalizing or in wetlands. 12 to 36 inches tall and wide. Most varieties are yellow with some newer ones being bicolor and pink.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative ARROWLEAF BALSAMROOT

*Balsamorhiza sagittata*

Sporting bright yellow flowers, this plant blooms from May to July. The leaves are arrow shaped, meaning that the blades are triangular and pointed. They can be from two-thirds to one and two-thirds of a foot long. A large, deep, thick taproot completes the name, having a diameter the width of a hand and a branching root going some feet deep. The balsam portion of the name refers to a resin in the root.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative ALPINE ASTER

*Aster alpinus*

Alpine asters prefer full sun or partial shade in peaty, well drained fertile soil. "Alpine Asters" may self seed if the conditions are right. Excellent choice for the rock garden and attracting Butterflies. These asters grow 12 inches tall and up to 36 inches spread. This hardy perennial produces an abundance of flowers in shades of violet pink, and white. The alpine aster is ideal for rock or alpine gardens and is great for cutting.



ALTERNATIVE



### Additional Recommended Alternatives

Eriogonum species - Wild Buckwheats

Aster divaricatus - White Wood Aster

CARBENING  
Perennial and Ground Cover

## PARROT FEATHER WATERMILFOIL

*Myriophyllum aquaticum*



This is an herbaceous, rooted, submerged/emergent plant that invades aquatic habitats throughout much of the United States. Stems are stout and blue-green in color. Leaves are abundant, whorled, pinnately compound, and finely dissected. It is found in lakes, ponds, and slow moving streams where it can form dense mats of vegetation that can clog waterways.



IDAHO STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED  
INVASIVE

## Alternative COMMON MARE'S-TAIL

*Hippuris vulgaris*

Mare's tail grows in the emergent to submersed plant community, generally in muddy damp shorelines and in shallow, quiet waters of ponds and streams. The unbranched stems of mare's tail emerge along stout, spongy, creeping rhizomes. It has ribbon-like leaves are linear, with blunt, hard tips. Tiny inconspicuous flowers occur in the axils of the middle and upper leaves.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative CANADIAN WATERWEED

*Elodea canadensis*

Canadian waterweed, is an herb that is non-woody and not grassy. It has gray-green foliage and white flowers of the genus Elodea. It has a rapid growth rate. It is perennial and will grow year after year. It's active growth period is spring, blooms during summer and is intolerant of shade. Plants may grow completely submersed and at some considerable depth, or in shallower water the growing tips of stems may float on the surface.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative COMMON HORNWORT

*Ceratophyllum demersum*

Ceratophyllum grows completely submerged, not always floating on the surface of the water. It does not withstand drought. Along the stem it produces rings of bright green leaves. The forked leaves feel brittle and stiff to the touch. The plants have no roots at all, but sometimes they develop modified leaves with a root-like appearance, which anchor the plant to the bottom. The flowers are small and don't attract the attention.



ALTERNATIVE



### Additional Recommended Alternatives

*Elodea nuttallii* - Western Waterweed

## BRAZILIAN ELODEA

*Egeria densa*



INVASIVE

Brazilian elodea is a popular aquarium plant. The trouble starts when Brazilian elodea is introduced into lakes and ponds where it becomes a nuisance plant. Brazilian elodea forms dense stands that restrict water movement, trap sediment, and cause fluctuations in water quality. Dense beds interfere with recreational uses of a waterbody by interfering with navigation, fishing, swimming, and water skiing.



IDAHO STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED  
INVASIVE

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ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative WESTERN WATERWEED

*Elodea Nuttallii*

This is a perennial aquatic plant that grows submerged in lakes, rivers, and other shallow water bodies. It has a thin branching stem with whorls of flat leaves at intervals. It bears tiny flowers, the staminate ones abscising from their stalks and floating away from the plant. It flowers from May until October. It is often found in quiet waters of lakes and streams. Typically found in "hard" water areas.



ALTERNATIVE



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ALTERNATIVE



*Additional Recommended Alternatives*

CARDENING  
Of Water

## SALT CEDAR

*Tamarix species*

Saltcedar species are spreading shrubs or small trees, 5-20 feet tall. The pale pink to white flowers are small and feather-like.



**INVASIVE**

It is aggressive and often out-competes willows, cottonwoods and other native riparian vegetation. The stems and leaves of mature plants secrete salt, forming a crust above and below ground that inhibits other plants. Saltcedar is also an enormous water consumer, absorbing up to 200 gallons of water a day.



IDAHO STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED  
INVASIVE

## Alternative SMOKETREE

*Cotinus coggygria*

Smoke tree is a small tree that is approximately 15 feet in height and width and blooms from late spring to early summer with pink, red or purple flowers. Smoke trees are easy to grow requiring some sunlight, remains free of pests and insects. The smoke tree does well in all kinds of soil if it is well drained. This tree does not require much moisture, and is known as a drought-tolerant plant. Varieties with purple leaves are very showy.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative EASTERN RED BUD

*Cercis canadensis*

The eastern redbud is a moderate to rapid-grower when young, reaching a height of 15 to 20 feet. Trees of this size are often found on moist sites. The splendid purple-pink flowers appear all over the tree in spring, just before the leaves emerge. Eastern Redbud has an irregular growth habit when young but forms a graceful flattopped vase-shape as it gets older. This tree grows well in full sun to partial shade.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative BLACK ELDERBERRY

*Sambucus nigra*

The black elderberry grows in a variety of conditions including both wet and dry fertile soils, primarily in sunny locations. It grows to 12-20 feet in height, and prefers full sun. Blooming occurs in the mid-summer with profuse aromatic white flowers followed later by edible dark purple to black berries. All parts of this plant are poisonous to animals and people except the ripe fruit.



ALTERNATIVE



*Additional Recommended Alternatives :*

Leyland Cypress - x *Cupressocyparis leylandii*

CARDENING  
Woody

# PLANT THIS *Not That...*

INVASIVE PLANTS *to*  
*voluntarily phase out*

PLANT THIS



This next section of plants are invasive but are voluntary for phasing out. These plants have not been placed on Idaho's Invasive Plant List yet, but are on their way. They are invasive and tend to take over in many planting areas. If you look around your gardens and landscapes, you may see some of them. Help us to phase out these plants by choosing alternatives that are not as invasive and stay where they're planted in your landscapes and gardens.

**Help Stamp Out Invasive  
Plants!**

INVASIVE PLANTS TO VOLUNTARILY PHASE OUT  
Invasive Plants to Voluntarily Phase Out

## WATER HYACINTH

*Eichhornia crassipes*



INVASIVE

Water hyacinths are so prolific they can just be tossed into the water to grow. Their air-filled leaves keep them afloat and long heavily-branched roots reach towards the bottom of the pond. They are 12-18 inches tall and bloom in the early to mid-summer. They grow so fast that they block waterways and impede navigation in many state waterways.



IDAHO STATE  
NOXIOUS WEED  
INVASIVE

## Alternative YELLOW POND-LILY

*Nuphar lutea*

The yellow pond lily is a perennial, large-heart-shaped leaved water plant has bright yellow, fragrant, waxy flowers that can be up to 5 inches across. It grows to 5-15 inches in height and spreads 3-6 feet on the water surface. Spongy rhizomes anchor into the muddy bottom of a water body and give rise to long, stout stems. Flowers emerge on separate stem stalks. They are cup-shaped and yellow-green, blooming from May to October.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative COW LILY, SPATTERDOCK

*Nuphar lutea Subsp. Advena*

Spatterdock is a large perennial lily with leaves often floating, submersed or emersed in water. Spatterdock commonly occurs in ponds, lakes and sluggish streams and blooms from spring to summer. It has large heart-shaped leaves, and long, stout stems. Spatterdock flowers are yellow and "half-opened" at or above the water surface. Flowers are attached to thick round stems that are often six feet long.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative WATER FERN

*Azolla filiculoides*

Water-ferns are small, flat, compact, moss-like plants that float freely on the water surface, often forming extensive reddish mats. Young plants are generally bright green, becoming pink, red, or dark brown as the plant matures and when exposed to strong sunlight. Each plant may have a branching stem with several pairs of leaves, but only a single dangling root.



ALTERNATIVE



### Additional Recommended Alternatives

*Aponogeton distachyon* - Cape Pondweed

## RIBBON GRASS

*Phalaris arundinacea*



Ribbon grass is a perennial grass that grows 1.6-6.5 ft. tall. The grass blades are solid green, or striped green and white. The flower is a panicle that is between 2.75-10 in. tall. The plant flowers from late May to August. The inflorescence color changes from green to purplish to tan as the seeds mature. This plant spreads by rhizomes, multiplying prolifically. It forms dense monocultures that can cover acres.



IDAHO STATE  
INVASIVE WEED  
VOLUNTARY

## Alternative

### OVERDAM REED CANARY GRASS

*Calamagrostis acutiflora*

Reed canary provides wonderful contrast amongst low shrubs and perennials. Often used in naturalized areas, its ultimate size is directly related to the amount of moisture, doing better in drier areas. Foliage is green, 36-48" tall, and it flowers in June through July; 60-80" tall; golden flowers often remain erect despite heavy snowfall. Full sun is preferred, and is a nice backdrop for roses and other perennials.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative

### MAIDENGRASS

*Miscanthus species*

Maiden grass is a showy ornamental grass. The foliage is green; 1/4-3/16" wide and 48-72" high. Flowers grow to 60-80" tall and bloom from July until frost. This grass likes full sun or bright shade; fertile soil; and needs ample water in hot, dry conditions. It is a great specimen, border, screen, hedge, and background plant.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative

### DWARF FOUNTAIN GRASS

*Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln'*

Dwarf Fountain Grass is a cool season grass, making it a great choice for short growing seasons. Its foliage is green and 20-30" in height. It flowers in July through September on stalks 30-40" tall. It prefers full sun to light shade; moist well drained soil; and will grow in any soil except those that are poorly drained. It has beautiful color from July until winter.



ALTERNATIVE



*Additional Recommended Alternatives*

## GIANT REED

*Arundo donax*

VOLUNTARY



INVASIVE

Giant reed grass grows up to 15-18 feet. It is large and vigorous, and blooms huge feather like plumes in September. It likes moisture and is also tolerant of sea salt & wind. It is the primary wood for reed instruments, and is invasive as it chokes riversides and stream channels, crowds out native plants, interferes with flood control, increases fire potential, and reduces habitat for wildlife.



IDAHO STATE  
INVASIVE WEED  
VOLUNTARY

## Alternative PURPLE LOVE GRASS

*Eragrostis spectabilis*

Purple love grass is a native perennial that is 1-2' tall, with flowers up to 15" long and 12" across. It likes full sun and dry barren soil containing sand or gravel. This low-growing grass is resistant to drought. The large inflorescence is attractive, forming a purple haze in the distance. It's a nice ornamental grass for your yards and gardens.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative MALEPARTUS MAIDEN GRASS

*Miscanthus sinensis 'Malepartus'*

Malepartus maiden grass is an early bloomer and makes this a great choice for colder areas. With foliage of more than 3 feet in height and blooms at 6 feet tall, 'Malepartus' can be a strong focal point in a landscape. Foliage is green, 50-60" tall, and blooms in late August until frost; 60-80" tall. Ideal conditions are full sun or bright shade with fertile soil. This is a great specimen, border, screen, hedge, or background plant.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative PLUME GRASS

*Erianthus ravennae*

Plume grass has tall, arching stems that make this one of the largest and most popular ornamental grasses!. It's easy to grow with little or no insect or disease problems. Plume grass will grow in dry to moist soils but prefers well-drained or sandy soils with a neutral pH. It prefers full sun and attracts birds, is naturalizing, and makes a nice cut or dried accent to any flower arrangement, can be planted near a pond with no ill affects.



ALTERNATIVE



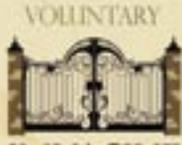
### Additional Recommended Alternatives :

- Canadian Wildrye - *Elymus* taller species
- Switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum* 'Dallas Blues'
- Indian Grass, *Sorghastrum nutans* 'Indian Steel'

# CARRINGTON Grass

## BLOOD GRASS

*Imperata cylindrica*



**INVASIVE**

This red-tipped upright ornamental grass becomes increasingly red as the season progresses. Becomes blood red by fall. It is invasive and tends to take over areas where it's planted. Also, keep an eye out for any blood grass that reverts to its green form, as these will be even more invasive. Growing in containers is the best way to keep this beauty under control. It grows to 10-12" in height. Flowers are uncommon.



IDAHO STATE  
INVASIVE WEED  
VOLUNTARY

## Alternative SQUIRRELTAIL

*Elymus elymoides*

Squirreltail is a type of native wild ryegrass. It is characterized by, relating to, or requiring only a small amount of moisture. It is a perennial bunch grass growing to around 18 inches in height. It prefers full sun and is drought tolerant. Its flowers are yellow and appear in late spring to early summer, but are not showy. This is an erect plant that is hardy and long-lived.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative LITTLE BLUESTEM

*Schizachyrium scoparium*

Little blue stem is a perfect blue-green grass for both a formal flower garden or prairie meadow. It is a drought-tolerant clump-forming grass widely used in flower beds where it becomes reddish-brown in autumn, providing shape, texture, and color into the winter months. It is useful for butterfly and wildlife habitat and erosion control. Little blue stem seed is eaten by birds and provides cover for ground birds and small mammals.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative FOX RED CURLY SEDGE

*Carex buchananii*

This sedge is a deer-resistant ornamental grass that needs partial to full sun. It likes to be in moist soil, and is a moderate grower getting to be 2 to 3 ft. tall and wide. It grows slowly and has dramatic foliage color. It looks best when used in borders, containers, on green roofs, in very wet areas, water gardens, or in woodland gardens. Flower color is brown, and inconspicuous, and this grass has an exceptional bronze fall color.



ALTERNATIVE



### Additional Recommended Alternatives:

Red Switchgrass - *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'

## BISHOP'S WEED

*Aegopodium podagraria variegatum*



Bishop's weed is a beautiful, invasive creeping herbaceous perennial that can grow to 16-40 inches tall. The flowers appear in June. Bishop's weed can spread aggressively when its root zone is unrestricted. Most seeds fall to the ground, although some seeds may be dispersed by moving water or by animals. Digging up this plant can stimulate reproduction via the stolons.



IDAHO STATE  
INVASIVE WEED  
VOLUNTARY

## Alternative BUGLEWEED

*Ajuga reptans*

Bugleweed is a mat forming plant that is ideal as a ground cover. It is known as one of the most popular and useful ground cover plants. It comes in many foliage colors, all showy. It typically flowers from late spring to mid-summer with 6-9" tall purple spiky flowers. Full sun to partial shade is ideal for this plant. Ajuga is an excellent plant to use for erosion control due to its extensive root system.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative SIBERIAN BUGLOSS

*Brunnera macrophylla*

Siberian bugloss is a woodland plant that is valued for its flowers and groundcovering leaves. It grows from 1-3 feet in height. Terminal clusters of showy, delicate blue flowers that look like forget-me-nots appear in late spring. The foliage is nicely shaped, rough and deep-green. This plant prefers moderately fertile, moist, well-drained soil. This plant is best when used in beds and borders, as a ground cover or in a naturalized setting.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative COMMON PERIWINKLE

*Vinca minor*

Common periwinkle is an evergreen to semi-evergreen, trailing vine that reaches up to 6 1/2 ft. in length. Vines can reach a height of 6 in. tall. Some varieties have variegated leaf colors. Flowers are violet to blue (possibly white) in color, 1 in. wide, and develop in the spring. It prefers open to shady sites, and forms dense and extensive mats. It is commonly sold as an ornamental ground cover.



ALTERNATIVE



### Additional Recommended Alternatives

Japanese Pachysandra - *Pachysandra terminalis*

Columbine - *Aquilegia species*

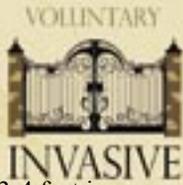
Hosta or Plantain Lily - *Hosta species*

CARBLENING  
Perennial Ground Cover

## YELLOW FLAG IRIS

*Iris pseudacorus*

Yellow flag is a very showy species growing 3-4 feet in height. Large plant clumps are formed sometimes attaining 20 feet in width. It has erect plant stalks with multiple flowers produced on each. Floating mats of seed can be observed in backwaters and marshes aiding dispersal. This plant displaces native plants and can reduce the carrying-capacity of wetlands for waterfowl. It often severely restricts irrigation canals and ditches.



IDAHO STATE  
INVASIVE WEED  
VOLUNTARY

## Alternative JAPANESE IRIS

*Iris ensata*

Japanese iris are beardless, and one of the last irises to bloom in the garden. They can grow in water, but in cold climates they do not like to be in water in the winter. They prefer full sun and require an acid soil rich in organic materials. Japanese irises will not grow in alkaline soil. These iris like to be fed often to keep in prime condition.



ALTERNATIVE



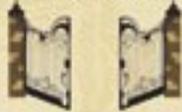
## Alternative SIBERIAN IRIS

*Iris siberica*

Siberian iris have grass-like foliage, giving a bit of texture to the garden. The flowers on Siberian iris are much smaller than those of bearded irises, and come in a range of colors including violet, white, pink, and blue. They grow from tough, fibrous rhizomes. Plants grow about two feet tall and typically spread up to three feet. Siberian irises prefer full sun, but will handle light shade.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative RABBITEAR IRIS

*Iris laevigata*

Rabbitear irises prefer full sun and grow to 24-30 inches tall. They like a moist soil with a low pH. Flowers are blue-violet, and bloom in early to mid-June. It prefers full sun to part shade. This is a beardless iris that bears 2 to 4 blooms that are purple-blue with short standards on unbranched stems and broad leaves to 16 inches long. It thrives in wet places like ponds.



ALTERNATIVE



*Additional Recommended Alternatives*

CARBONENING  
Herbaceous Perennial

## WATER LETTUCE

*Pistia stratiotes*



Water Lettuce has velvety foliage that spreads like strawberry plants across the surface; they may produce inconspicuous white flowers. The bright green leaves are deeply veined and resemble heads of floating lettuce; they grow to lengths of up to 10 inches and up to 4 inches wide. Water Lettuce helps to provide shade for the pond but it grows into dense mats that clog waterways.



IDAHO STATE  
INVASIVE WEED  
VOLUNTARY

## Alternative AMERICAN LOTUS

*Nelumbo lutea*

The American lotus is an emersed native. Its leaves may be emersed above the water or floating on it. The plant can be found in muddy, shallow waters such as lake margins, or in water as deep as six feet. Its flowers are extremely large, typically six inches wide. Flowers are luminescent yellow with many petals and stamens. American lotus leaves are circular, and do not have a "cut", as do water lily leaves.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative PICKERELWEED

*Pontederia cordata*

Pickerselweed is a very common emersed plant that is a prolific grower that can cover large areas. It blooms from spring to summer. It typically grows to about two to three feet tall. Its leaves are large, up to five inches wide, and are usually twice as long. Leaf shapes are variable, but are usually lance-shaped. The easiest way to recognize pickerselweed is by its spike of violet-blue flowers. Sometimes the flowers are white.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative YELLOW POND-LILY

*Nuphar lutea subsp. advenae*

The yellow pond lily is a perennial, large-heart-shaped leaved water plant has bright yellow, fragrant, waxy flowers that can be up to 5 inches across. It grows to 5-15 inches in height and spreads 3-6 feet on the water surface. Spongy rhizomes anchor into the muddy bottom of a water body and give rise to long, stout stems. Flowers emerge on separate stem stalks. They are cup-shaped and yellow-green, blooming from May to October.



ALTERNATIVE



*Additional Recommended Alternatives*

Nuphar lutea - Water lily varieties

## SIBERIAN ELM

*Ulmus pumila*



Siberian elm is a fast-growing tree distinguished by small toothed leaves about 1-2½ inches long and half as wide, and pointed at the tip. Mature trees reach a height of 50-70 ft., with a round crown of slender, spreading branches. Prairies and stream banks are vulnerable to Siberian elm invasion. This tough exotic survives under conditions not easily tolerated by other species, allowing it to invade areas dominated by native plants.



IDAHO STATE  
INVASIVE WEED  
VOLUNTARY

## Alternative SCOTCH ELM

*Ulmus glabra cultivars*

The most popular Scotch elm is known as a Camperdown Elm. It is a small, compact weeping tree that would make a nice accent in any garden. This tree has been grafted to get the desired effect of the weeping branches that will eventually reach the ground. This variety will tolerate drought and flooding. It is resistant to Dutch Elm disease and grows 12-18" per year, eventually reaching 10-12 feet.



ALTERNATIVE



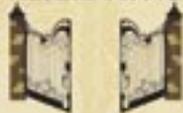
## Alternative RIVER BIRCH

*Betula nigra*

River birch is a deciduous medium to large-sized native tree. The bark is light brown to buff, paperlike; has a peeling-back effect on young trees, turning to scaly bark on older trees. This plant has a relatively short life span and a rapid growth rate reaching a maximum height at 20 years of 35 feet. Many species of birds eat the seeds including wild turkey and grouse. The leaves are browsed by white-tailed deer.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative JAPANESE ZELKOVA

*Zelkova serrata*

Japanese zelkova is a deciduous tree that grows to 50-60 ft tall. It has a vase shaped form when young and a rounded umbrella-like habit when mature. Older trees grown in the open can have a very wide and majestic canopy. The bark is smooth and light gray, and peels to reveal orange patches. The foliage usually puts on a showy display in fall when the leaves turn yellow then orange or red before dropping.



ALTERNATIVE



*Additional Recommended Alternatives*

Hackberry - *Celtis reticulata*

CARDENING  
Woody

## TREE OF HEAVEN

*Ailanthus altissima*

Tree-of-heaven can reach 80 feet in height.

It is a dioecious plant meaning that male and female flowers occur on separate plants. Flowers occur in large terminal clusters and are small and pale yellow to greenish. All parts of the tree, especially the leaves and flowers, have a nutty or burned nut odor. Tree-of-heaven is a fast-growing tree and a prolific seeder, that can take over sites, replacing native plants and forming dense thickets.



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INVASIVE WEED  
VOLUNTARY

## Alternative THORNLESS COCKSPUR HAWTHORN

*Crataegus crataegifolia* var. *inermis*

Thornless cockspur hawthorn features extremely unique horizontally-tiered branches a nice texture to the landscape. It emerges in late spring with beautiful clusters of white flowers. Its deep green leaves turn to a striking red/orange in the fall. The showy red berries emerge in early fall and persist through winter, adding significant winter interest. The Thornless Cockspur Hawthorn, is completely thornless.



## Alternative SMOOTH AND STAGHORN SUMAC

*Rhus glabra* and *Rhus typhina*

Sumac is a deciduous woody perennial that grows in clumps or alone as a small tree. Usually sumacs don't get much taller than 15 feet. Leaflets turn bright colors before falling off in the fall. The appearance of its branched stems, which are covered with soft hairs, resembles that of deer's antlers. Red fruits form in dense, upright clusters that look like hairy cones located at the tips of branches.



## Alternative THORNLESS COMMON HONEYLOCUST

*Gleditsia triacanthos inermis*

Thornless common honeylocust is a large tree with an open, flattened crown, sometimes growing to 80 feet. This plant is hardy and often used for shade, hedges and for attracting wildlife. Some forms have seed pods with sap resembling honey. Other forms of honeylocust have thorns, often used for pins. Tree turns a beautiful color of bright yellow in the fall and provides dappled shade, allowing grass to grow well underneath.



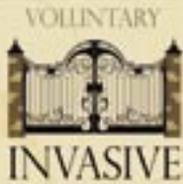
### Additional Recommended Alternatives

Northern Catalpa - *Catalpa speciosa*

CARDENING  
Woody

## RUSSIAN OLIVE

*Elaeagnus angustifolia*



Russian-olive is a small, usually thorny shrub or small tree that can grow to 30 feet in height. Its stems, buds, and leaves have a dense covering of silvery to rusty scales. Russian-olive can outcompete native vegetation, interfere with natural plant succession and nutrient cycling, and tax water reserves. It can fix nitrogen in its roots, and grow on bare, mineral substrates and dominate riparian vegetation.



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VOLUNTARY

## Alternative CANADA BUFFALOBERRY

*Shepherdia canadensis*

Canada Buffaloberry is a spreading shrub up to 9 feet tall. It's a versatile plant that can grow in poor soil. It's often found on slopes and in thinly wooded areas. It has yellow flowers and leaves with a top surface green and bottom surface silvery with brown dots. The female flower produces a small, red or yellow fruit. The fruit is enjoyed by many bird and mammal species, and is a special favorite of black bears.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative GINNALA MAPLE

*Acer ginnala*

Ginnala maple is a small tree that grows 15-20 ft. in height. The bark of the tree is smooth and gray. The fall color of the leaves is usually red, but some are bright yellow. The yellow-white flowers appear from May-June and are fragrant. The reddish fruit, which hang on the tree until late fall, have nearly parallel wings. This is a very nice smaller tree or shrub for your yard that does not sucker.



ALTERNATIVE



## Alternative WINTER KING HAWTHORNE

*Crataegus laevigata*

The winter king hawthorn is a small tree that grows to 25-35 feet and spreads 15-20 feet. It grows in many different soil types. When mature, it forms a vase shape with it's foliage. It grows at a medium rate and prefers full sun. The flowers are white, and the leaf color is green until fall when it turns a gold with red and purple. The fruit of this tree is red and 3/8" diameter. The bark is silvery with exfoliating, peeling patches.



ALTERNATIVE



Additional Recommended Alternatives :  
Hybrid Elm - *Ulmus x hybrids*

# BLACK LOCUST

*Robinia pseudoacacia*



The black locust can reach 90 feet tall when mature. It flowers from May until June and has a very strong odor. It grows spontaneously on almost any kind of soil, expanding readily into areas where shade reduces competition from other plants. Dense clones of locust create shaded islands with little ground vegetation. The large, fragrant blossoms of black locust compete with native plants for pollinating bees.



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# Alternative KENTUCKY COFFEE TREE

*Gymnocladus dioica*

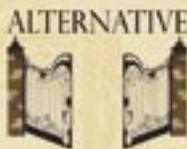
This tree reaches heights of 60 to 100 feet. It is closely related to the honeylocust. This deciduous tree is ideal as a shade tree on larger, ungroomed properties. Colonists used the large seeds to make coffee, but when eaten raw, the seeds are poisonous. The bark is deeply furrowed and dark brown in colour. It adapts well to urban conditions. Fall color is yellow turning to orange.



# Alternative TULIP TREE

*Liriodendron tulipifera*

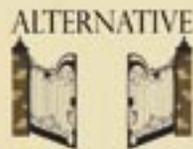
Tulip tree has a narrow crown that spreads with age, and large showy flowers resembling tulips or lilies, star-shaped foliage and growing up to 150 feet. The leaves are waxy and smooth, turning bright gold in fall. Showy, yellow-orange, tulip-like flowers are often missed because they are up 50 ft. or higher in the tops of trees. Cone-shaped seedheads remain after leaves have fallen.



# Alternative SHADEMASTER HONEYLOCUST

*Gleditsia triacanthos 'Shademaster'*

This is a fast-growing, spreading deciduous tree, with thorns on its trunk and branches. Its leaves are glossy and dark green (yellow in fall) and are pinnate with 14 - 24 lance-shaped leaflets. In fall seed pods are borne. An excellent street and lawn tree that does well in extreme heat and cold. Seems to almost thrive where seasons are defined. Not picky about soil. It does not cast a heavy shadow, making growing grass underneath quite easy.



*Additional Recommended Alternatives*

CARRINGTON  
of Woody