

The Virginia Native Plant Society suggests replacing English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) with these alternatives:

EVERGREEN OR SEMI-EVERGREEN FOR SHADE



Creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*) mats to make a spectacular display of blue/violet in early spring and stays low and green throughout the rest of the year.



Virginia ginger (*Hexastylis virginica*) is a beautiful evergreen ground-hugger.



Foamflower (*Tiarella codifolia*) has frothy little spikes of white flowers in May, and the foliage lasts all year long.

EVERGREEN FOR SEMI-SHADE



Mouse-eared coreopsis (*Coreopsis auriculata*), with yellow blooms, attracts many butterflies and bees.

DECIDUOUS FOR SHADE



Violets (*Viola Canadensis*) disappear in winter, but they provide nectar in early spring and are host to several butterfly larvae. Ants will spread the seed.

VINES



Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is taller and less dense than English ivy, but looks beautiful under trees. It will grow up trees without harming them because it is deciduous. Bird love the berries. It is aggressive, so be sure to put it in a place that you don't mind it spreading.

HERBACEOUS PLANTS



Virginia knotweed (*Tovara virginiaa*/*Persicaria virginiaa*) will completely fill a large space in a couple of years and looks very nice in a "shaggy, woody way. In addition to the straight pieces, there is a colorful cultivar with variegated leaves, tiny red flowers and seed heads, called "Painter's Palette." Cardinals and other birds love the seed.



Heart-leaved aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*, formerly *Aster cordifolius*) is similar to white wood aster but with pale blue flowers.

Zigzag goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*) is very attractive to pollinators in fall.