Plant This

Carolina Jessamine

Gelsemium sempervirens

Carolina Jessamine is not a newcomer to our environment. An excerpt from a letter in 1711 states, "the yellow Jessamine ... (is one of the) spontaneous productions of the country."

Carolina Jessamine is very popular in the Southeast. It is easy to grow, evergreen, resistant to disease and insects, and deer resistant. If you are looking for a trouble-free, fast-growing vine with gorgeous fragrant flowers, Jessamine is one of the best.



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Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

This plant was introduced to gardeners as an ornamental because of its delicate flowers and heavenly fragrance. It has turned into a garden bully! Keep moving in your garden because anything that stands still will become a perch for this pest. It is strong enough for small children to swing on and vigorous enough to require constant attention to keep it in check.

English Ivy Hedera helix

Beware of this vine which clings to vertical structures or covers the ground. Be it solidcolored or variegated, it is a wolf in sheep's clothing. First introduced to North America by early colonists, it has escaped the walls and "halls of ivy" to run rampant over native plants in the wild. It will behave the same way in a garden setting. In addition, the sap and black berries produced by English Ivy are poisonous.

Coral Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens) is a lovely native alternative.

