

The Post-Fire Landscape: What to Pull, What to Plant

Celebrate Gatlinburg's Botanical Heritage in the Great Smoky Mountains

An online brochure offers Gatlinburg residents important landscape tips to encourage the regeneration of beneficial native plants and slow the spread of non-native invasive species.

Avoid Invasives (The Bullies)

Fire as a disturbance can open the landscape to invasion by fast-spreading non-native species which

- quickly dominate an area
- displace a wide variety of native species
- reduce diversity
- do not provide necessary nutrition for native wildlife
- do not provide adequate shelter
- rapidly rebuild forest fuel load



Coltsfoot seedling

Eleven non-native invasive plants from herbs to trees are highlighted with descriptions and images to assist recognition and identification.

Embrace Natives (The Beauties)

Fire can also result in the renewal of native vegetation. Planting select native species

- helps stabilize the bare understory
- provides a competitive deterrent to the establishment of non-native invasives
- allows natural regeneration of native vegetation
- provides nutritious food sources for native wildlife – butterflies, bees, birds
- restores wildlife habitat



Small's ragwort

For each invasive plant, 2 to 4 native species are listed as excellent landscape alternatives, featuring descriptions and sample photos.

The full document can be viewed and downloaded from the following Web sites:

www.tnps.org
www.tnipc.org
www.scamga.org

www.friendsofthesmokies.org
www.smokiesinformation.org
www.burnsafetn.org/firewise