

Other Resources

- www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/us/louisiana
- www.louisianalandcan.org/Northwest/Invasive-and-Native-Species-Resources
- is.cbr.tulane.edu
- www.fws.gov/invasives/faq.html
- www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/invasive
- <http://www.invasiveswatch.org>



Louisiana Master Naturalists
of Greater Baton Rouge

Defining INVASIVE



How do invasive,
introduced, and native
species differ?



How do invasive, exotic, and native species differ?

Quick Terms:

Native — a species that has developed over hundreds to thousands of years within a particular habitat and location.

Exotic or **alien** or **introduced** — a species not native to the habitat/location where it is found. Arrival may be intentional or not, often associated with human activity.

Invasive — a non-native species whose introduction to a habitat/location causes or has the potential to cause economic or environmental harm.

Naturalized - an introduced species that has integrated into a habitat/location.

How are species introduced?

Species naturally spread via weather events and movement of individuals. However, most species are introduced to a new area via human commerce. The accidental or intentional introduction may be due to...



Nursery plants, the pet trade, and stowaways in shipping cargo and ballast

Why do some become invasive?

Not every species that is introduced becomes invasive. Only an estimated 4–19% will become problematic. Once removed from their native habitats, invasive species may be able to outcompete the native species in the new habitat since none of the ecological controls from the invasive's original environment are in place.

Impacts Can Be Complicated!

Invasive species have the potential to fundamentally alter ecosystems.

Invasive water plants such as alligator weed, water hyacinth, and giant Salvinia can change how much sunlight filters into freshwater habitats by covering the water's surface. This changes what and how many fish and birds (and many other species including humans) can use that habitat. Other invasive species such as the Cuban tree frogs consume native frog species, reducing the populations of native species drastically.



Some introduced species can provide some benefit to native species and humans. Common garden plants that are introduced but non-invasive such as some passion vines may provide food for native bees and butterflies.

Introduced species can be both beneficial and harmful simultaneously.

The multi-colored Asian ladybeetle was introduced because it is a good predator of pest insects but also eats native ladybeetle species.



Similarly, European honey bees are widely used to pollinate crops but can outcompete native pollinators for habitat and transmit diseases.

Species designation ALWAYS depends on the ecosystem and geographic location under consideration.

How can you prevent invasive species spread?

1. Check if plants you select for landscaping are native.
2. Wash your boat, engine, and trailer if going to a new waterway. Watch out for plant material and mussels in particular.
3. Clean shoes and equipment before going to new areas for hiking to prevent the spread of weeds and diseases such as white-nose syndrome in cave-dwelling bats.
4. Check plants and dried wood for insect hitch-hikers before moving them to a new location.
5. Don't release pets into the wild.
6. Report species you think are new and participate in citizen science monitoring.
7. **STAY UP TO DATE ON INVASIVE IN YOUR AREA!**