

INVASIVE SPECIES



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- Non-native/introduced to an ecosystem (did not evolve in or slowly enter an area)
- Can be plants, animals, etc.



MEANS OF INTRODUCTION

- Primarily through people
- Unintended
 - Zebra mussels
 - Fire ants
- Intentional
 - Kudzu
 - Nutria



EFFECTS ON NEW ECOSYSTEM

- No natural predators to stop them
 - Uncontrolled population growth
 - Out-compete native species for resources
 - Uncontrolled consumption of prey
 - Change in apex predator



PREVENTION

- Select native garden/yard plants
- Clean boats (inside & out) as soon as removed from a body of water
- Clean boots before leaving an area (seeds, pathogens)
- Inspect fruits, vegetables, plants, insects and animals for pests
- Keep pets as pets!!!—don't release aquarium fish, plants, live bait, or other exotic animals into wild