

LAST SECTION OF THE BOOK! YAHOO!

Ecosystems can be disturbed when people, intentionally or accidentally, transport plants, animals and microorganisms into new regions and habitats. These organisms are called introduced or foreign species (aka non-native, exotic or alien species).

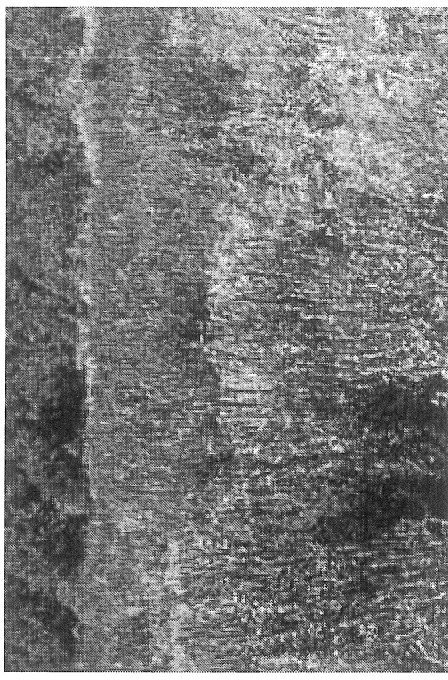
Most introduced species are harmless (sometimes beneficial), but some can cause immense damage to their new ecosystem.

Invasive species can take over the habitat of native species (those that naturally inhabit the area), or invade their bodies and weaken their immune systems.

Example:

Purple loosestrife - Brought to North America from Europe in the early 1800's (seeds in ships ballasts). It is now well established in wetland habitats and out-competes native species like the cattail.

European leaf-eating beetle - Feeds on purple loosestrife in its natural habitat (Europe). It has been introduced by humans in NA to manage the growth and population of purple loosestrife here. It has proven successful as the beetle only feeds on the purple loosestrife and will not eat native plant species.



Climate change and increased international travel and trade have amplified the rate of species introduction. This is suspected to be a major cause of global biodiversity loss.

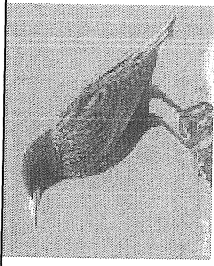
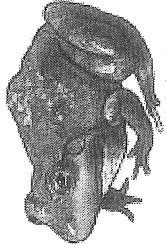
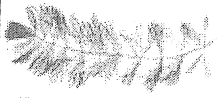
The Impact of Invasive Species

Read pages 140-141 and complete the table below.

	How Invasive Species Become Successful	Examples
How do invasive species affect native species through competition?		
How do invasive species affect native species through predation?		
How do invasive species affect native species through disease and parasitism?		

Read page 142 and summarize the activity of some introduced invasive species in BC.

Introduced Invasive Species	Method of Introduction into the Ecosystem	Negative Effect on the Ecosystem And Attempted Controls
Eurasian milfoil		
Norway rat		
American bullfrog		
European starling		



© 1998 Stewart K. Peggler