

# What is an invasive species?

An **invasive species** is defined as a species that is non-native to the ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

## **Economic:**

Impacts on agriculture food and fiber sources, recreation, wood/forest products, trade/shipping, tourism, utilities (power plants) and management costs.

## **Environmental:**

Impacts on biodiversity, food chains, structural diversity, natural processes, aesthetics, ecosystem function and services.

## **Human Health:**

Impacts on soil, water and air quality, flooding, injury, and disease/illness.

- Invasive species effect biodiversity in ecosystems and threaten native species by outcompeting for food and habitat.
- Invasive species have no natural enemies, a high rate of reproduction and great adaptations that help to increase survival in the harshest of conditions.

## Know - Observe- Report