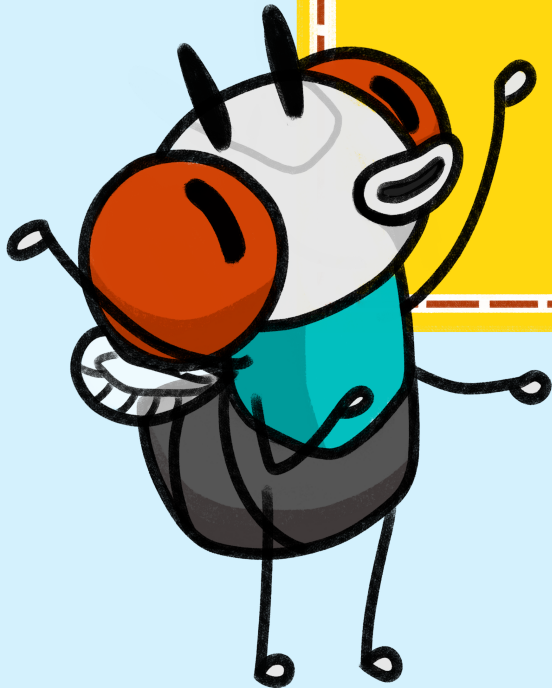




WHAT IS AN

INVASIVE
SPECIES?



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MOLLY FITZGERALD

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HELLO THERE! MY NAME
IS FLEA AND I AM A
FLYENTIST!
A FLY SCIENTIST, THAT IS..



TODAY WE WILL BE
LEARNING ABOUT
INVASIVE SPECIES!



INVASIVE SPECIES CAN
BE PLANTS, ANIMALS,
OR MICROBES THAT
ARE NON-NATIVE TO
THE
ENVIRONMENT.

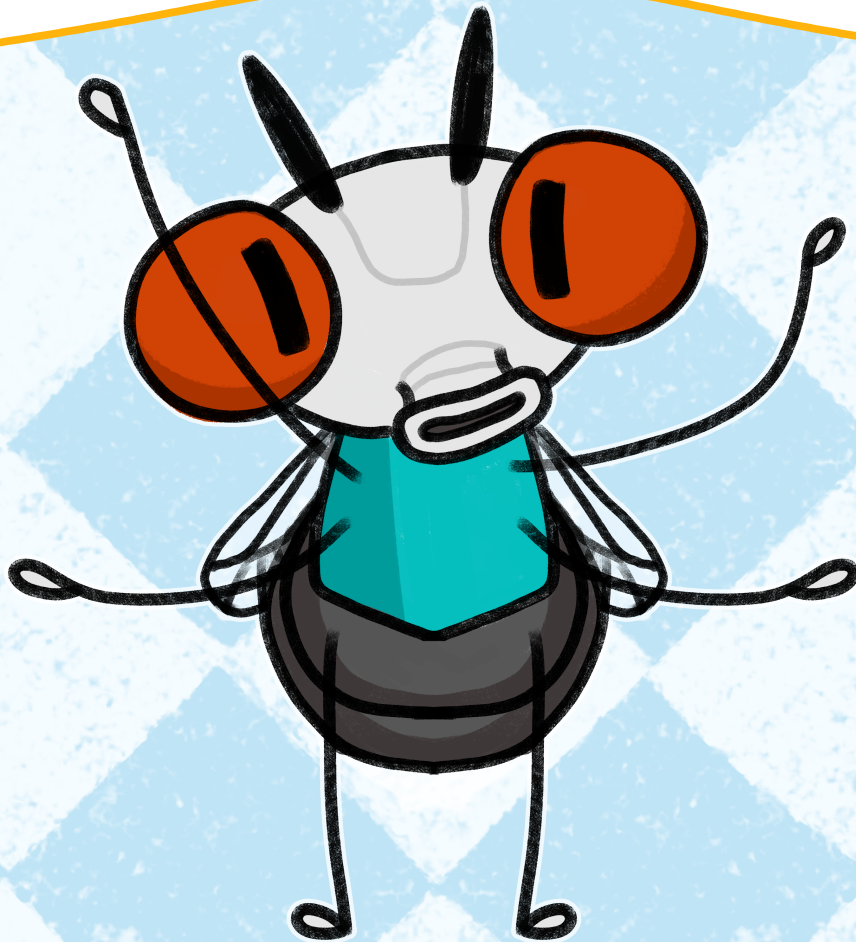


SO WHAT?

INVASIVE SPECIES CAN CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL HARM AS WELL AS ECONOMIC DAMAGE. THEY CAN CAUSE EXTINCTIONS, ALTER THE FOODWEB, AND HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO SPREAD EXTENSIVELY.



LET'S SEE SOME
EXAMPLES



INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE

ZEBRA MUSSELS

ZEBRA MUSSELS ATTACH TO NATIVE MUSSELS AND SUFFOCATE THEM. ZEBRA MUSSELS ALSO FILTER ALGAE OUT OF THE WATER, DEPLETING NUTRIENTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT.

NATIVE MUSSEL →

ZEBRA MUSSELS →

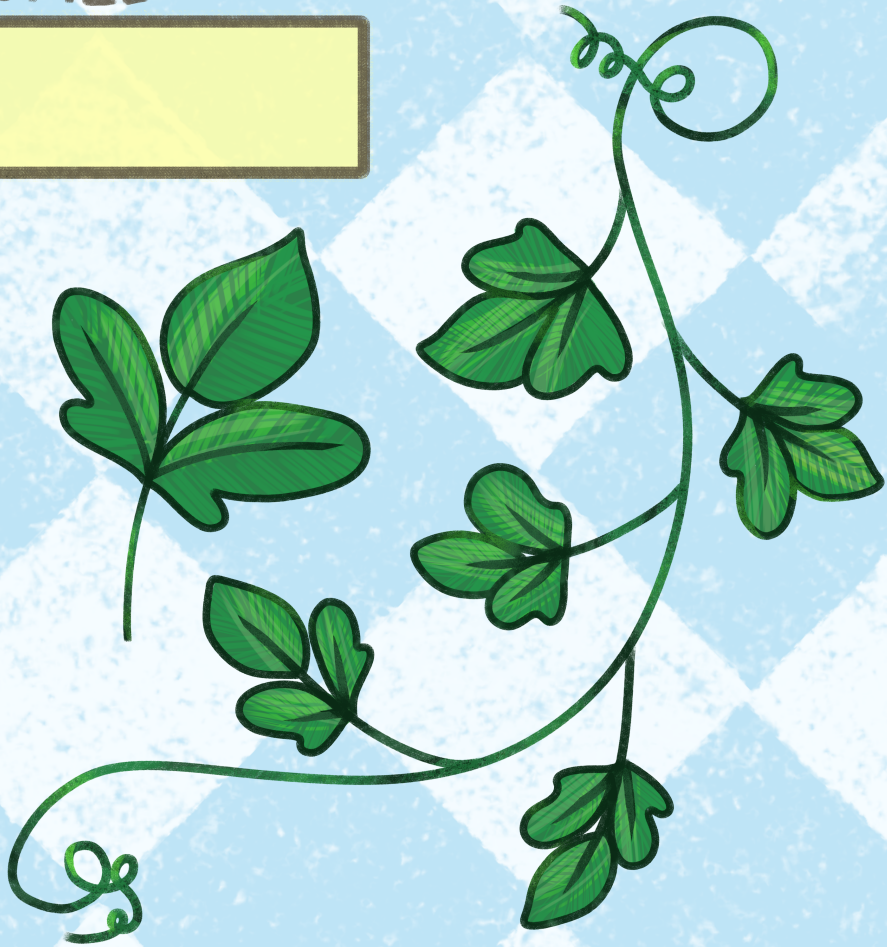


THESE SMALL AND STRIPED MUSSELS ARE INVASIVE TO THE GREAT LAKES AND UNITED STATES.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE

KUDZU

KUDZU IS AN INVASIVE PLANT THAT CAN GROW TO COVER LARGE AREAS, EVEN BUILDINGS! THE VINES CAN BLOCK SUNLIGHT FROM THE PLANTS THEY COVER, KILLING THE NATIVE PLANTS.



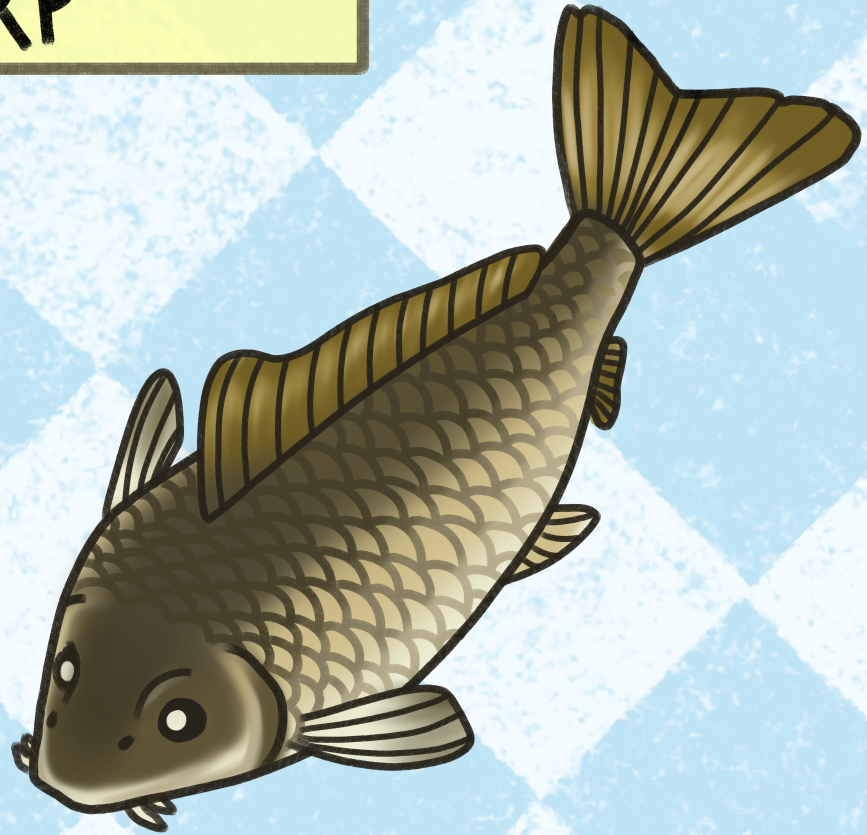
KUDZU IS A LONG VINE NATIVE TO EAST ASIA AND INVASIVE IN THE UNITED STATES.



INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE

COMMON CARP

COMMON CARP COMPETE WITH NATIVE FISH FOR FOOD AND CAUSE WATER QUALITY TO DECREASE. CARP UPROOT PLANTS AS THEY FEED, CAUSING EROSION AND STIMULATING HARMFUL ALGAE GROWTH.



COMMON CARP ARE NATIVE TO ASIA AND EUROPE. THEY ARE INVASIVE TO 48 of 50 US STATES.

CANE TOAD

CANE TOADS WERE INTRODUCED AS PEST CONTROL FOR AUSTRALIA. THE TOADS ARE HARDY PREDATORS THAT DECIMATE NATIVE INSECT POPULATIONS. THEY ARE ALSO POISONOUS!



THE NATIVE RANGE OF THE CANE TOAD IS CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA. THEY ARE INVASIVE IN THE SOUTHERN U.S. AND AUSTRALIA.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE

EMERALD ASH BORER

EMERALD ASH BORERS ARE WOOD BORING BEETLES. THEY INFEST ASH TREES AND LAY EGGS IN THE SOFT PHLOEM OF THE TREE. THE LARVAE HATCH AND EAT THROUGH THE PHLOEM, DAMAGING THE TREE.



THESE BEETLES ARE NATIVE TO NORTH EASTERN ASIA AND INVASIVE TO EASTERN NORTH AMERICA.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE

GIANT AFRICAN LAND SNAIL

GIANT AFRICAN LAND SNAILS ARE EXACTLY AS THEIR NAME STATES, GIANT! THEY CAN PRODUCE AROUND 1,200 EGGS A YEAR. THESE SNAILS CONSUME PLANTS, TREE BARK, AND EVEN PLASTER ON BUILDINGS!

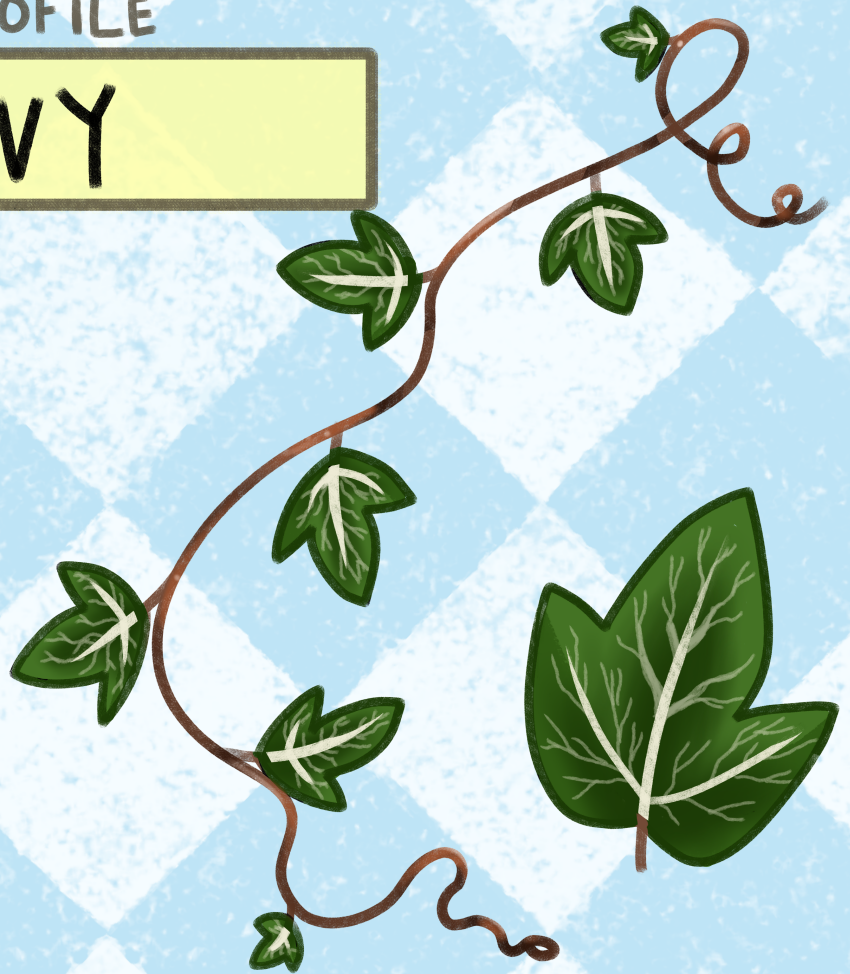


THESE LAND SNAILS ARE NATIVE TO WEST AFRICA AND INVASIVE TO ASIA, HAWAII, AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE

EUROPEAN IVY

THE EUROPEAN IVY IS A CLIMBING VINE INTRODUCED TO THE AMERICAS BY EARLY EUROPEAN COLONISTS. THEY SUPPRESS NATIVE PLANTS AND GROW RAMPANTLY.

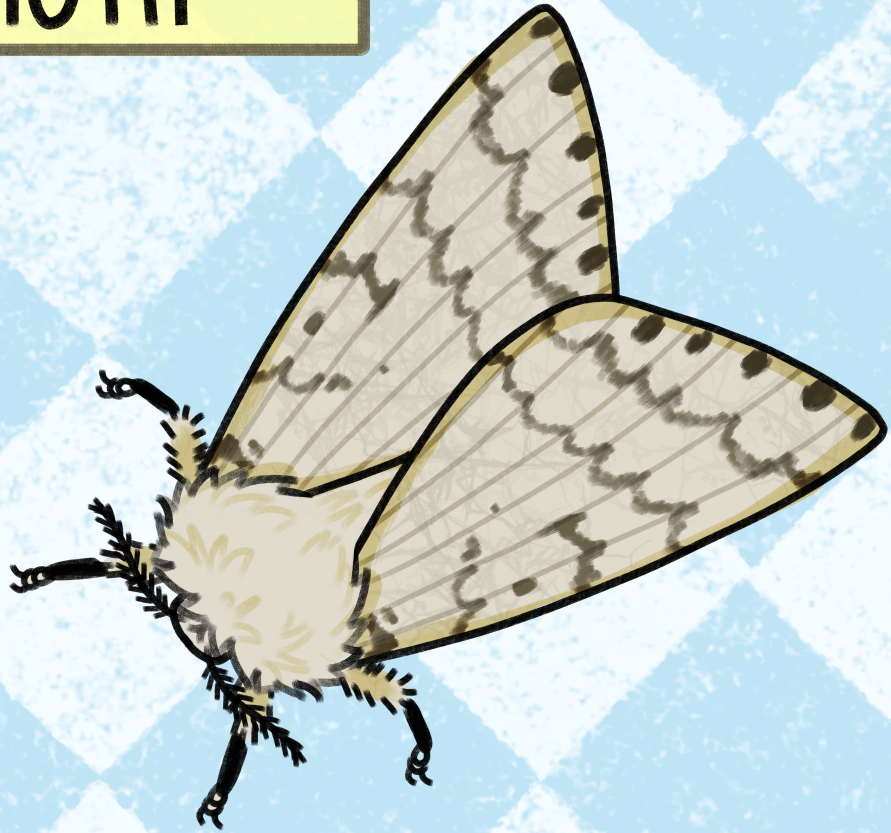


EUROPEAN IVY IS A VINE FROM EUROPE THAT IS NOW INVASIVE TO NORTH AMERICA. ALSO KNOWN AS ENGLISH IVY or COMMON IVY.

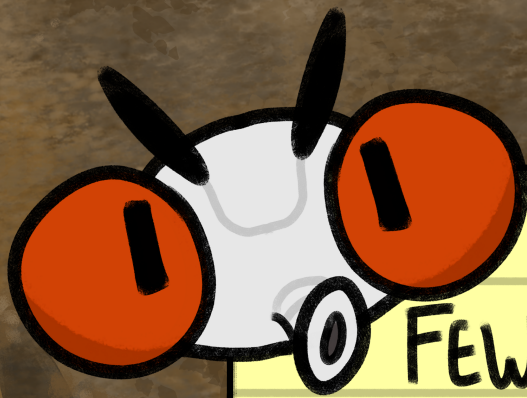
INVASIVE SPECIES PROFILE

SPONGY MOTH

SPONGY MOTH
OUTBREAKS CAUSE
DEFOLIATION OF
THEIR HOST PLANT.
THIS CAN LEAD
TO HOST DEATH
AND AN INCREASE
IN WILDFIRE
RISK.



THIS MOTH IS NATIVE
TO EUROPE AND INVASIVE
IN THE UNITED STATES.
THEY ARRIVED IN
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
IN 1869.



THESE ARE ONLY A
FEW EXAMPLES OF INVASIVE
SPECIES. THERE ARE INVASIVE
SPECIES WORLD WIDE, BUT YOU
CAN HELP STOP THE SPREAD!

OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES FOUND IN NORTH AMERICA -

- NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD
- LION FISH
- SEA LAMPREY
- BURMESE PYTHON
- WILD BOAR
- CANADA THISTLE



SOME TIPS to REDUCE the SPREAD

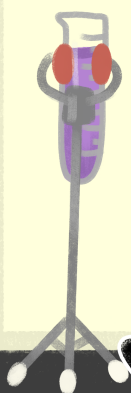
- ☒ DON'T RELEASE PETS TO THE WILD!
- ☒ CLEAN YOUR SHOES AFTER HIKEs!
- ☒ BURN FIREWOOD WHERE YOU BUY IT!
- ☒ PLANT NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN!
- ☒ SHAKE OUT YOUR TENT AFTER CAMPING!

**LEAVE NATURE WHERE IT IS,
DON'T TAKE HITCHHIKERS!**



WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN
PROTECT OUR UNIQUE
ENVIRONMENTS AND
THEIR INHABITANTS!

THANKS FOR READING!
I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED
LEARNING ABOUT INVASIVE
SPECIES AND HOW YOU CAN
HELP!



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
INVASIVESPECIESINFO.GOV

