**Invasive and Non-Native Species**

An **non-native species** is any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that habitat.

An **invasive species** is an exotic species whose introduction into an ecosystem in which the species is not **a native species** or is likely to cause environmental or economic harm or harm to human health.

A native species is a [species](http://www.yourdictionary.com/species) that normally lives and thrives in a particular [ecosystem](http://www.yourdictionary.com/ecosystem).

When non-native species are introduced into an ecosystem in which they did not evolve their populations can **explode** in numbers.

Reasons

**No natural predator, Habitat/climate similar to native ecosystem,**

**Plentiful food sources, Reproduce quickly and in large numbers**

Invasive species are harmful to our **natural resources** (fish, wildlife, plants and overall ecosystem health) because they disrupt natural communities and ecological processes.

This causes harm to the native species in that ecosystem because they are suddenly **competing** with a new species for the same resources (food, water, shelter, etc.).

The invasive species can outcompete the native species for food and habitats and sometimes even cause their extinction.