

ARIZONA'S 10 MOST UNWANTED INVASIVE SPECIES

QUAGGA MUSSEL

Origin – Eastern Europe and Ukraine
Prolific populator; Removes food/nutrients from water column, clogs pipes and water conveyance infrastructure, damages boat motors and marinas; Management/eradication costs can be enormous for power and water supply agencies. Dispersal by boats and equipment, pipes, canals, live wells.



GEORGE ANDREJKO, AGFD



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NORTHERN CRAYFISH

Origin – Canada, south to Texas, west to Utah, north to Montana.
Popularly used as bait and for aquatic weed control; Populations have exploded in Arizona due to no natural predators; Arizona has no native crayfish; Voracious appetite for larval fish, plants, and insects can severely harm ecosystems. Dispersal by bait buckets and aquarium discard.

BUFFELGRASS

Origin – Africa
Pervasive grass introduced for soil stabilization and livestock feed; Potential to severely alter Arizona's desert landscape due to fire-carrying capability; Regrows quickly and outcompetes to replace native plants in disturbed areas. Dispersal by windblown seeds and rapid spread along roadways into the desert and rangelands/pastures.



UNKNOWN



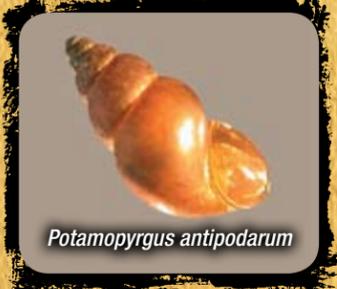
DEB SPARROW

YELLOW STARHISTLE

Origin – Eurasia, southern Europe
Displaces native and agricultural plants in rangelands/pastures; Grows and spreads in dense, impenetrable stands; Toxic to horses; Introduced to southwest as contaminant in grain seed. Dispersal by livestock, roadways, contaminated seed, and vehicular travel.

NEW ZEALAND MUDSNAIL

Origin – New Zealand
Out-competes native Arizona snails for available food resources/territory; Very prolific and spreads quickly by floating and attaching to vegetation to rapidly increase its range. Dispersal by boaters and anglers (waders, boating gear, fishing equipment, etc.)



USDA



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RED BROMEGRASS

Origin – Eurasia, Mediterranean region
Weedy annual now common throughout southwest U.S.; Grows prolifically with winter rainfall; Substantially increases fine fuels on rangelands; Increases occurrence and severity of wildfires. Dispersal by seeds spreading to disturbed areas along roadways, rangelands, agricultural fields and urban landscapes.

RED IMPORTED FIRE ANTS

Origin – South America
Caused severe, irreparable damages to economy/ecology in southeastern states and parts of New Mexico and California; Damages include total crop losses, nursery infestations, livestock depletion and harm to human health (stings/allergic reactions). Dispersal by plant trade and vehicular travel.



SCOTT BAUER, USDA/ARS



USFWS

SILVER CARP

Origin – China
Introduced into U.S. for algae control and as a food fish; Currently well established in the Mississippi drainage; Can grow up to 4 feet long and weigh over 60 pounds; Adults outcompete juvenile sportfish (e.g., bass, bluegill) for planktonic food. Dispersal by bait buckets and illegal commercial transport.

ASIAN TIGER MOSQUITO

Origin – Asia
Widely established in southeast and midwest U.S.; Aggressive biter carries diseases harmful to humans, e.g., West Nile virus, yellow fever and dengue fever; Detected in Arizona in 2000 and 2006 on imported, non-native plants. Dispersal by exotic plant trade (egg dispersal), back-yard containers, and transporting old tires.



SUSAN ELLIS



TROY EVANS

GIANT SALVINIA

Origin – South America
Pervasive aquatic fern that can greatly alter aquatic ecosystems; Forms very thick surface mats and completely blocks light and oxygen penetration; Impedes water flow, clogs water conveyance, and eliminates all other plant/fish species. Dispersal by boats, equipment, and natural downstream flow.

YOU CAN HELP STOP THESE INVASIONS!

Hunters, anglers, and outdoor recreationists can do their part.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS by cleaning, draining, and drying your watercraft and fishing equipment.

DON'T RELEASE PETS into the wild.

DON'T TRANSPORT LIVE FISH or other aquatic species for release elsewhere.

DON'T PLANT A PEST: clean your vehicle and hunting equipment of plant parts/seeds and use native plants for landscaping.

For more information visit www.az.gov/invasivespecies

Arizona Game and Fish Department
www.azgfd.gov/mussels

