Really?!



Could your actions be harming nature?

Actually, your everyday things are connected to the alien species problem There's something we want you to know.



Action Plan for Prevention of Damage from Alien Species (2nd Edition)





In fact, some alien species have been found to cause different kinds of harm





What are Alien Species?

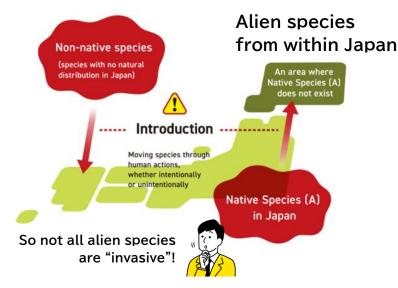
Alien species are living or growing outside their natural range, introduced by humans intentionally or unintentionally. It includes not only species coming in from abroad, but also those brought from one part of Japan to another outside their native range (for example, a species native only to Honshu introduced into Hokkaido) – these are all called alien species. Among them, those that cause or are likely to cause harm to Japan's ecosystems, human life or health, or agriculture, forestry and fisheries are called invasive alien species (IAS).



Not all alien species are harmful—some aren't invasive at all, and some, like certain vegetables, are important to us!

Alien species from overseas

(the "Alien Species" as defined under the Invasive Alien Species Act)



Why is it a problem?

Harm to Ecosystems

When invasive alien species are introduced, they can steal the homes of the native creatures that originally lived there or prey on them, throwing the ecosystem off balance. In the worst case, the native species that used to live there might even go extinct.



Harm to People

IAS can sometimes bite or sting people or pets. Some species, like fire ants, are venomous and have caused reports of serious symptoms. It's also noted that some species such as raccoons may spread infectious diseases that cause severe illness in humans.



Harm to Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Some IAS can wreak havoc on fields or prey on fishery resources. As a result, things like vegetable prices rising or local specialty products being wiped out can happen, which may even affect people's daily lives.













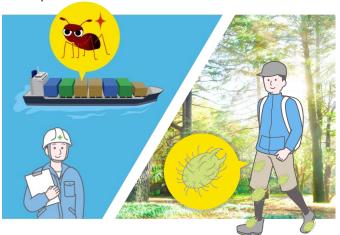
Ways alien species get introduced

case

(1

Spread through movement of people and goods

Sometimes IAS like fire ants hitch a ride on imported containers or cargo and enter from overseas. Also, when people travel domestically – for example, go hiking or climbing – they might unknowingly spread the seeds of alien species to new areas.



case

2

Spread through pets being released or escaping

In some cases, alien species kept as household pets or used for industrial purposes are released or escape, subsequently establishing populations in the wild. Also, alien species used in home gardens or flower beds can spread to other places.



Maybe our actions have been making the IAS problem worse?!

What we can do

- 1. Be aware that everyone can play a role in the IAS problem
- 2. Learn about what kinds of problems are occurring
- 3. Let's recognize that we are participants in the IAS problem and take action



Specifically...

- Mever release any alien species you're keeping as pets or ornamental plants!
- If you travel or enter a rich natural area, clean off any mud from your clothes and shoe soles beforehand!
- If you find a designated invasive alien species that hasn't been recorded in your area before, report it to the authorities!
- Look up information about IAS, watch news about them, and deepen your understanding!





But... there is nothing we can do...right?









IAS countermeasures by role

National Government

Promote comprehensive measures to tackle invasive alien species.



- Set priorities for invasive alien species measures.
- Call on everyone to take action against IAS..



Local Governments

Decide on local strategies for IAS and carry them out.



- Develop a plan to tackle IAS.
- Put in place local ordinances on IAS.



Citizens

Understand that you can play a role in the IAS problems, and take action.



 Cooperate with invasive species efforts by providing information and other support.



Private Companies & Organizations

Understand how your company might be connected to IAS, and actively take action to address them



 Create an IAS policy for your business and put it into practice.



Cooperation

Research Institutions & Organizations

Monitor IAS and compile, refine, and share knowledge on control methods and their impacts.



 Offer science-based advice for IAS measures.



Educational Institutions

Take the lead in teaching about IAS problems.

e.g. Incorporate IAS into the curriculum at each grade level.



Biological Exhibition Facilities

Study IAS problems and educate people about them.

e.g.

 Use exhibits to share information about IAS.



Media and Other Communicators

Play a leading role in reporting on IAS problems.

e.g.

- Highlight best practices and success stories.
- Encourage collaboration in IAS efforts.





For more details, please see the "Action Plan for Prevention of Damage from Alien Species"



Action Plan for Prevention of Damage from Alien Species

https://www.env.go.jp/nature/intro/2outline/actionplan.html

Cooperation in creating outreach materials

Contact Information



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