

Invasive species

Definition: an animal or plant that causes harm to an environment after being introduced by humans

An invasive species can be a problem when it:

- eats native species.
- introduces a new **31** _____.
- takes food from native species.
- threatens an entire **32** _____.

How invasive species spread

- accidentally e.g. via people returning from their **33** _____ or on cargo ships
- intentionally e.g. for pest control, or as **34** _____.

Examples of invasive species

- *Rhinella marina* (toads)
 - were introduced to Australia from Hawaii in 1935 to eat a type of insect that was damaging the **35** _____ plantations.
 - failed to solve the problem and became widespread in the north of Australia.
 - are poisonous for any species that eats them and reduce the food available for native frogs.
- Japanese knotweed plants were popular among 19th-century gardeners in the UK.
- Rhododendron plants prevent **36** _____ from reaching native plants.
- Grey squirrels from N. America reduce sources of food for the UK's native red squirrels and spread a **37** _____ that kills red squirrels.

Tackling invasive species

- Monitoring helps us to understand the **38** _____ of invasive species and the impact they have.
- Setting up a national **39** _____ makes it easier to track them.
- Asking the public to **40** _____ and report them helps with monitoring.