BE ON THE LOOK OUT...?

Invasive Species on the Move in Louisiana

Invasive species threaten habitats and ecosystems. Instead of adopting, transplanting, or moving them, report their locations to your state wildlife agency.
**Cogon Grass**
*Imperata cylindrica*
**Description:** Up to 48 in & up to 1 in wide blades, off center mid-vein, sharp pointed blade tips, white, feathery inflorescence.
**Dispersion:** From SE Asia, in FL, MS, AL, GA, LA, & SC. Seeds dispersed by wind.
*Photo: A. Murray, University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants*

**Purple Loosestrife**
*Lythrum salicaria*
**Description:** Up to 8 ft tall, magenta flowers, up to 50 ridged stems, fresh water marshes.
**Dispersion:** From Europe in 42 US States.
*Photo: M. Walter, Michigan Sea Grant and Sea Grant Nonindigenous Species Web Site*

**Black Carp**
*Mylropharyngodon piceus*
**Description:** Up to 52 in & 150 lbs, brownish-black with black-gray fins, long thin body, crushing teeth, similar to grass carp, large rivers and lakes, bottom dweller.
**Dispersion:** From Eastern Asia, in captivity in AR, IA, MO, NC, OK & TX.
*Photo: Leo G. Nico, USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Web Site*

**Round Goby**
*Neogobius melanostomus*
**Description:** Up to 10 in, females & immature males gray to brown, mature males almost black, round head with protruding eyes, fused pelvic fins, aggressive, bottom dweller.
**Dispersion:** From Caspian Sea in the Great Lakes spreading out.
*Photo: Sea Grant Nonindigenous Species Web Site*

**Spotted Jellyfish**
*Phyllorhiza punctata*
**Description:** Size of a basketball, clear with white spots.
**Dispersion:** From Australia, in Gulf of Mexico, US Pacific Coast & Caribbean Sea.
*Photo: Courtesy of MS/AL Sea Grant*

**Asian Clam**
*Corbicula fluminea*
**Description:** Up to 2 in, yellow-green to brown shell with a deep hinge, thick concentric rings, freshwater, sandy & muddy bottoms.
**Dispersion:** From Asia & Africa, in W & SE US States.
*Photo: Noel M. Burbridge, USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Web Site*

**Brown (Mexihalo) Mussel**
*Perna perna*
**Description:** Up to 5 in, brown smooth, elongated shell, salinity of 15-50 ppt, 18-30°C, dispersion from tropical to subtropical regions of the Atlantic (S. America & Africa), in Gulf Coast Texas.
*Photo: USGS and Gulf of Mexico Program*

**Green Crab**
*Carcinus maenas*
**Description:** Up to 4 in, color varies, underside is red or yellow, 5 spines on either side of eyes.
**Dispersion:** From North & Baltic Seas, in South Africa, Australia, Pacific Coast & North Atlantic Coast of US.
*Photo: Sjoukje Taelman, Oregon State University*

**Marine Swimming Crab**
*Charybdis helleri*
**Description:** Up to 20 in, green in color, purple on dorsal side of legs, spines on claws, soft-bottom areas.
**Dispersion:** From Australia & Indo-Pacific Ocean, in Mediterranean Sea, Caribbean Sea, & Gulf of Mexico Florida.
*Photo: Dr. Jeffrey Lotz, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and Gulf of Mexico Program*

**Chinese Mitten Crab**
*Eriocheir sinensis*
**Description:** 3 in long, gray-green to dark brown, hairy claws, fresh to estuarine, hard bottom with submerged plants.
**Dispersion:** From China, in Europe & Great Lakes.
*Photo: John Chapman, Oregon State University*

*Potential origin small populations of invasive species in Louisiana*
**Nutria**

*Myocaster Coypus*

**Description**: 24 in, dark brown, round almost hairless tail, webbing between toes and large orange incisors, global freshwater wetlands.

**Dispersion**: From South America in 40 US States.

*Photo: Louisiana Sea Grant*

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**Rio Grand Cichlid**

*Cichlasoma cyanoguttatum*

**Description**: Up to 12 in, 4-6 dark blotches on side, small white & blue spots, black blotch on tailfin, subtropical & tropical, bottom dweller, freshwater.

**Dispersion**: From NE Mexico and S Texas, IN TX, FL, LA, AZ & IL.

*Photo: USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Web Site*

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**Grass Carp**

*Ctenopharyngodon Idella*

**Description**: Up to 50 in, dark bronze back, silver belly, edges of scales dark, give crosshatch appearance; freshwater.

**Dispersion**: From E Asia, in 48 US states except VT & MT.

*Photo: USGS Florida Caribbean Science Center*

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**Silver Carp**

*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*

**Description**: Up to 47 in, silver, mouth up-turned, toothless, fused & sponge-like gill rakers, freshwater.

**Dispersion**: From China, in Gulf States.

*Photo: Leonard Lowshin, Auburn University and USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Web Site*

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**Bighead Carp**

*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*

**Description**: 19 lbs, up to 28 in, irregular black blotches, small scales, big head/short body, filter feeder, freshwater.

**Dispersion**: From China, in 19 states, mainly Mississippi watershed.

*Photo: USGS Florida Caribbean Science Center*

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**Water Hyacinth**

*Eichhornia crassipes*

**Description**: Up to 36 in tall, lavender flowers, round leathery leaves, spongy bulbous stalk, dark feathery roots, floating, freshwater.

**Dispersion**: From South America in 35 US States.

*Photo: Louisiana Sea Grant*

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**Giant Salvinia**

*Salvinia molesta*

**Description**: Up to 1.5 in floating leaves, folded & compressed in upright chains; leaf surface with upright white bristles; velvet appearance, floating, freshwater.

**Dispersion**: From South America in AL, AZ, CA, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC & TX.

*Photo: Louisiana Sea Grant*

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**Common Salvinia**

*Salvinia minima*

**Description**: Up to 0.5 in, nearly round leaves, lie flat, accumulates mats, shady areas, freshwater.

**Dispersion**: From Central & South America in 35 US States.

*Photo: Louisiana State University AgCenter*

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**Hydrilla**

*Hydrilla verticillata*

**Description**: Leaves in whorls, white flowers, submerged, hydrosols, freshwater waterways.

**Dispersion**: From Asia, in Gulf & Atlantic US states plus WA, CA, AZ.

*Photo: Dane Darrez, Louisiana State University*

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**Alligatorweed**

*Alternanthera philoxeroides*

**Description**: Opposite elongated leaves, white clover-like flowers, emergent in moist soil to shallow water.

**Dispersion**: From South America in US states VA to TX.

*Photo: Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida*
Water Lettuce

*Pistia stratiotes*

**Description:** 6 in., light green thick leaves, looks like floating head of lettuce, needs temperatures of 59°F and up.

**Dispersion:** From Africa. In FL; west to TX & north to South Carolina.

Photo: Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida.

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Torpedograss

*Panicum repens*

**Description:** Up to 30 in., narrow gray-green hairy leaf blades, subtropical, wet sandy or organic soils.

**Dispersion:** From Australia. In Gulf Coast US states to NC.

Photo: Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, University of Florida.

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Chinese Tallow

*Sapium sebiferum*

**Description:** Up to 40 ft., deciduous, oval leaf comes to a point; wet prairies & bottomland hardwood forests.

**Dispersion:** From China. In US states SC to TX.

Photo: Vic Ramey, University of Florida.

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Kudzu

*Pueraria montana*

**Description:** Up to 100 ft. long, semi-woody vine, alternating compound leaves in groups of three; purple fragrant flowers, any soil type; forest edges.

**Dispersion:** From Asia. In Southern US.

Photo: Pam Blanchard, Louisiana Sea Grant.

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Zebra Mussel

*Dreissena polymorpha*

**Description:** Up to 2 in., alternating dark and light bands on shell, clusters on submerged objects, freshwater.

**Dispersion:** From Caspian Sea. In Great Lakes & Mississippi River.

Photo: Charles Ramcharan, Louisiana State University.

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Common invasive species in Louisiana