

Module 1 ~ Silent Invaders (UE)

Invasive Plants Reading Activity



Name: _____ Class Period: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read the passage and use the information you've learned to answer the questions below in complete sentences.

In Florida, about 1000 non-native plant species are growing in our natural areas and waters. They have proven they can survive in Florida's hot climate without watering and fertilizing. At least 130 species have been able to grow extremely fast and in great numbers. In some instances, they've outgrown or replaced native plant communities that evolved together.

Some have taken over large sections of our natural areas, lakes and wetlands. This happens because the plant has been taken away from its normal insect enemies, diseases, climate and other stresses that keep it under control in its native range.

When a non-native plant species causes harm to the economy or the environment, it is considered invasive. Water hyacinth is one example of an **invasive plant**. It reproduces so fast it can completely cover a river or lake in a matter of months and cause oxygen problems for fish and animals living in the water (ecological harm). It also prevents boaters from using the lake and spending money in the community (economic harm). This is definitely an invasive plant!

We can help by being responsible land managers and learning which plants are invasive. Once we know, we need to be sure we don't plant them in our own yards or move them to new places. Helping remove invasive plants from state parks and natural areas can also be rewarding.



Invasive Plants Reading Activity (UE) – answer in complete sentences.

1. Of the 1000 non-native plant species growing in Florida, what percent of them are growing fast and in great numbers?

2. When is a plant considered invasive?



Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative • <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>
A Collaboration of the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants
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