

## Module 1 ~ Silent Invaders (UE/MS/HS)

# Keyword Definitions



**Directions:** Use these keywords and definitions when discussing the *Silent Invaders* presentation:  
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>. Also, see Keywords chart.

1. **alert** – v. to warn; to prepare for action.
2. **aquatic plants** – n. plants that live near, on, or under the water.
3. **ballast water** – n. sea water that is pumped into or out of tanks on a ship or boat; it is stored in tanks (on a ship or boat) to provide stability. This water can be pumped on or off the vessel.
4. **compost** – n. partially decomposed organic matter.
5. **country** – n. large territory having a distinctive culture or political system; often thought of as an independent state or nation.
6. **continent** – n. one of the large landmasses of the earth; there are seven recognized continents on the planet earth.
7. **dispose** – v. discard: throw or cast away.
8. **economic harm** – harm or damage to the economy; loss of revenue.
9. **emersed plants** – n. have roots underwater with part of the plant sticking above the water.
10. **environmental harm** – when an ecosystem or habitat (that is vital to birds, fish, other animals) has been degraded or destroyed.
11. **floating-leaved plants** – n. plants that have leaves that float on the surface; roots are not always anchored to the bottom.
12. **household garbage** – n. usually refers to solid waste (cans, clothing, compost, disposables, food packaging or scraps, newspapers, magazines) that originates from private homes or apartments.
13. **hydrilla** – n. a submersed aquatic plant that is extremely invasive in Florida lakes and rivers.
14. **inspect** – v. to look over carefully; to examine critically or carefully.
15. **invasive plants** – n. a non-native species (to an ecosystem) that is causing or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
16. **native plants** – n. a plant species that occurs naturally within a geographic region or area. In Florida, the phrase “native plant” refers to those species that were here prior to European contact (also referred to as an indigenous plant). It has not been introduced by humans, intentionally or unintentionally.
17. **natural areas** – lands that have not been developed for agriculture, business or housing.
18. **non-invasive plants** – n. plants that do not cause environmental or economic harm; they do not grow on their own (without cultivation).
19. **non-native plants** – n. a plant species that is present in a region outside its original, historic range due to intentional or unintentional introduction; not necessarily invasive. Also referred to as non-indigenous or exotic. The introduction of the plant to a new area is often the result of human activity. In Florida, refers to a plant species that arrived since the time of Christopher Columbus.
20. **plant species** – n. group of plants capable of interbreeding with each other but not with members of other species or types of plants.
21. **region** – n. an area having characteristics that distinguish it from other areas (an area with a particular soil type, forest type, language, etc).
22. **submersed plants** – n. grow with their roots, stem and leaves completely underwater.
23. **terrestrial plants** – n. live on dry land.
24. **volunteer** – n. a volunteer is someone who works for a community or the benefit of group because they choose to do so (unpaid).
25. **water hyacinth** – n. a floating aquatic plant from South America that is invasive in Florida and many other regions of the world.



Florida Invasive Plant Education Initiative • <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/education>

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