

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## The Ten Most Important Invasive Species or Invasive Species Assemblages in North America in 2015

The North American Invasive Species Network (NAISN) was formed in 2010 by university and government scientists across North America. Presently, the network is comprised of university centers, non-profit organizations, and government institutions that are addressing invasive species issues such as prevention, management, research, and education and outreach in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. NAISN's overall goal is to enhance multi-jurisdictional responses to biological invasions across the continent.

Once a year NAISN identifies the ten most important invasive species or invasive species assemblages in North America based on their ability to invade a wide geographic area on public conservation lands and waterways, their ecological and/or economic impacts, and/or their potential for or actual human health impacts. This list will evolve and change through time as new invasive species emerge in North America especially because of climate change. NAISN also recognizes that many other invasive species are locally or regionally important and cause significant economic, health, and/or environmental damage.

In 2015, the Ten Most Important Invasive Species or Invasive Species Assemblages in North America are (in common name alphabetical order):

**Asian Carp Assemblage:**

Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)  
Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)  
Bighead carp (*H. nobilis*)  
Black carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)

**Asian gypsy moth** (*Lymantria dispar*)  
**Burmese python** (*Python bivittatus*)  
**Emerald Ash borer** (*Agrilus planipennis*)  
**Eurasian wild pig** (*Sus scrofa*)  
**Lionfish** (*Pterois spp.*)  
**Hydrilla** (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

**Mussel Assemblage:**  
Quagga Mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*)  
Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)

**Purple loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*)  
**Salt cedar** (*Tamarix spp.*)

*The North American Invasive Species Network is a U.S. 501(c)3 non-profit science-based organization. Charitable donations can be made to:*

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Network (NAISN)  
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To learn more about invasive species  
or to comment on this list, please contact:  
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We encourage you to visit [www.naisn.org](http://www.naisn.org).  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/North-American-Invasive-Species-Network-NAISN/128341960595519>

Species (alphabetical by common name):	EDDMapS Distribution:	For more information visit:
Asian Carp Assemblage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grass carp (<i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i>)</li> <li>• Silver carp (<i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i>)</li> <li>• Bighead carp (<i>H. nobilis</i>)</li> <li>• Black carp (<i>Mylopharyngodon piceus</i>)</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Grass carp</a> <a href="#">Silver carp</a> <a href="#">Bighead carp</a> <a href="#">Black carp</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Asian Carp Canada website</a></li> </ul>
Asian gypsy moth ( <i>Lymantria dispar</i> )	<a href="#">Asian gypsy moth</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">BugwoodWiki</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Texas Invasive Species Institute (TISI)</a></li> </ul>
Burmese python ( <i>Python bivittatus</i> )	<a href="#">Burmese python</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Invasive.org</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Texas Invasive Species Institute (TISI)</a></li> </ul>
Emerald Ash borer ( <i>Agrilus planipennis</i> )	<a href="#">Emerald ash borer</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">BugwoodWiki</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">National Institute of Invasive Species Science</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Texas Invasive Species Institute (TISI)</a></li> </ul>
Eurasian wild pig ( <i>Sus scrofa</i> )	<a href="#">Eurasian wild pig</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">CONABIO</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Invasive.org</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Texas Invasive Species Institute (TISI)</a></li> </ul>
Lionfish ( <i>Pterois</i> spp.)	<a href="#">Lionfish EDDMapS</a> <a href="#">Lionfish USGS NAS Distribution</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Invasive.org</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Texas Invasive Species Institute (TISI)</a></li> </ul>
Hydrilla ( <i>Hydrilla verticillata</i> )	<a href="#">Hydrilla</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">BugwoodWiki</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants</a></li> </ul>
Mussel Assemblage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quagga Mussels (<i>Dreissena bugensis</i>)</li> <li>• Zebra mussels (<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>)</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Zebra mussel</a> <a href="#">Quagga mussel</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BugwoodWiki: <a href="#">zebra mussel</a>   <a href="#">quagga mussel</a></li> <li>○ TISI: <a href="#">zebra mussel</a>   <a href="#">quagga mussel</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">CONABIO</a></li> </ul>
Purple loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> )	<a href="#">Purple loosestrife</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">BugwoodWiki</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Invasive Species Centre</a></li> </ul>
Salt cedar ( <i>Tamarix</i> spp.)	<a href="#">Tamarix spp.</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">BugwoodWiki</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">Texas Invasive Species Institute</a></li> </ul>