

Why Should We Care About Invasive Species?

Invasive species can negatively impact some of your favourite foods, drinks, sports and recreational activities. Here are some examples.

Foods

- **Pancakes:** Asian long-horned beetle larvae eat maple trees from the inside out, affecting the production of maple syrup.
- **Macaroni and cheese:** The Khapra beetle threatens our grains, including noodles and other pasta
- **Apple pie:** The False codling moth is a threat to our fruits, including apples and pears.
- **Peanut butter and jam:** The Brown marmorated stink bug feeds on the grapes used to make grape jelly. Spotted wing drosophila larvae eat berries.
- **Burritos:** The Khapra beetle can infest stored rice.
- **Spaghetti and tomato sauce:** The Khapra beetle threatens our grains, including pasta. Japanese beetles will skeletonize the leaves of vegetable plants.
- **Corn on the cob:** Japanese beetles can eat more than 300 types of plants. They will feed on corn silk tassels, preventing them from being pollinated and producing corn kernels.
- **Berries:** Spotted wing drosophila larvae devour fresh blueberries, raspberries, and many other fruits
- **Nutella:** Brown marmorated stink bugs are threatening 70% of the world's hazelnut supply, grown in Turkey

Drinks

- **Lemonade:** Citrus greening disease threatens citrus fruits.
- **Orange juice:** Mexican fruit fly maggots can ruin many of our fruits, including oranges.
- **Apple juice:** Japanese beetles eat more than 300 types of plants, including apples.
- **Grape juice:** The Brown marmorated stink bug puts the Okanagan grape industry at risk.

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Sports and Recreation

- **Hiking:** Emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, Gypsy moth, and Sudden oak death could kill trees along your favourite hiking trails. Giant hogweed can cause burns, and Burweed covers clothing and gear with sticky burrs. Puncturevine seeds are so sharp they can go through shoe soles.
- **Dog walking:** Puncturevine can hurt your pets' feet and burrs can get stuck all over their fur.
- **Gardening:** The Japanese beetle munches on more than 300 different types of plants, including rose flowers, tree leaves, and fruit and vegetable plants.
- **Camping:** Emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, and Gypsy moth could kill the trees and bushes at your summer campsite. Your clothing and gear can get covered in burrs and if Carpet burweed is found, the campground could shut down.
- **Biking:** Invasive insect pests could change the tree-lined scenery of your favourite bike route. Puncturevine seeds are so sharp they could give you a flat tire.
- **Bird watching:** The habitat of your favourite birds could be on the menu of invasive insects. European starlings and House sparrows are invasive birds' that take over other birds' nest sites. Starlings will kill other birds' chicks
- **Baseball:** Emerald ash borer has destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in the United States and could turn ash baseball bats into a luxury item.
- **Fishing:** Invasive fish like Goldfish, Yellow perch, and Small- and Largemouth bass compete with and eat native fish including salmon and trout. Eurasian watermilfoil can form a thick mat and get caught in your boat propeller and rudder.
- **Swimming, boating and watersports:** Zebra and Quagga mussels take over lakes and streams, their sharp shells cut bare feet and they damage docks and water pipes. Their waste makes lakes smell terrible. Eurasian watermilfoil clogs lakes and streams with its thick mats, Parks and swimming areas may be closed as people have drowned due to this plant.