

# EXOTIC SPECIES WANTED POSTER

## *Wanted Dead or Alive*

**Exotic Species:** Also known as *invasive Species, Non-indigenous Species, Non-native Species, introduced Species*

**Background Information:** Species that have been introduced to an area that they are not native to are technically considered a non-native species. Some of these species have been introduced intentionally, some have been introduced unintentionally. All of these species present potential problems ranging from ecological disruption, negatively influencing native species populations, infrastructure damage, economic losses, and even threats to human health. To get a good understanding of the basics of non-native species introductions visit the U.S. fish and Wildlife FAQ page <http://www.fws.gov/invasives/faq.html> and skim over the information!

Visit a few of the websites listed below and **select one** non-native/introduced species that you would like to research. I would suggest that you select an exotic species in the U.S., and within California would be even more relevant, but you can essentially choose any species that has been introduced into any geographic region of the world and is considered to be a “pest” species. The following are **sample** species I have identified as being invasive to the U.S:

Asian clam (*Corbicula jluminea*)  
Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)  
Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)  
Kudzu (*Pueraria montana var. lobata*)  
Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*)  
Fire Ant (*Solenopsis invicta*)  
Asian swamp eel (*Monopterus albus*)

Snakehead fish (*Channa micropeltes*)  
Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*)  
Redbelly tilapia (*Tilapia zilltz*)  
European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)  
Chinese Mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*)

Obtain more information on your species by doing a web search. Here are some good websites to start with, but you can use whichever sites you would like:

- [Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force](#)
- [Invasives.org: A general source of information and images provided by a collaboration of federal government agencies and academic institutions](#)
- [100th Meridian Initiative: A collaboration of government agencies across North America to stop the westward spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species](#)
- [National Invasive Species Council](#)
- [Sea Grant Nonindigenous Species Site](#)
- [US Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\): Information on the importation of plants and animals](#)
- [USDA-APHIS Noxious Weed Program](#)
- [USDA Forest Service Invasive Species Program](#)
- [USDA National Agricultural Library, Invasive Species Information Center](#)
- [US Fish and Wildlife Service Invasive Species Program](#)
- [US Geological Survey Invasive Species Program](#)
- [US Geological Survey Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Report Form](#)
- <http://www.issg.org/database/species/search.asp?st=100ss>

- ✓ Directions: Select an exotic/introduced/non-native species that is interesting to you.
- ✓ Conduct independent research to include the items listed below:

**You must include the following information:**

1. **NAME / "AKA"** –A scientific name (Latin) / common name / "criminal" name.
2. **PICTURES** - a minimum of 2. Drawings, photographs, diagrams, etc.
3. **IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS** - key features to look for when identifying the "criminal"- a good basic physical description, including color, size, shape, identifying features, etc.
4. **LAST SEEN** - where did the species originally come from? Include a map of the organism's native habitat area/geographic region.
5. **SUSPECTED HIDEOUTS** - include a map with current introduced distribution (shaded) AND a description of the organisms preferred habitat conditions.
6. **CRIMES COMMITTED** – List and describe **at least 3**"crimes" or negative impacts caused by the non-native species you chose to research. These impacts should be specific to your species and not so general that they would apply to any introduced species.
7. **REWARD-** for elimination of your "exotic" species. Ecologic benefits for removal, economic benefits from eradication, social benefits, health benefits, etc. You may also include any programs that have actually been used to reduce the "exotic" species, or create your own "reward" for the introduced species removal.
8. **Bibliography** -- Document websites & URL's OR provide appropriate bibliographic information for other sources used in the construction of your wanted poster. This list should be taped, stapled, or glued to the back of your wanted poster.
9. **Make sure your name and period are on FRONT the wanted poster.**

- ✓ **Bring your independent research materials to the following class, including pictures, basic information, printed materials, drawings, printed maps, etc.**
- ✓ **You will then construct your wanted poster IN CLASS. The wanted poster will not be due until the period following the in class construction in case people need a little more time, or people want to put the finishing touches on their wanted posters.**

