

NEVER RELEASE

**AQUARIUM
PLANTS, ANIMALS
OR WATER**



IT'S BAD FOR YOUR PETS. IT'S BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.

What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?

Non-native aquatic plants and animals that cause harm to the economy, to the environment, and/or to human health by invading ecosystems.

What can AIS do?

- Degrade aquatic habitats
- Outcompete desirable native species
- Decrease biodiversity
- Alter food chains
- Introduce diseases
- Limit recreation
- Contaminate water resources
- Necessitate expensive controls



Goldfish

Why shouldn't I release classroom plants and animals into the wild?

They can become invasive species if released. Some common aquatic invasive pets include:



- Goldfish
- Red eared slider turtles
- Crayfish
- Elodea, hydrilla and other aquarium plants
- Chinese mystery snails

What if my classroom plant or animal is native to my region?

Even if your plant or animal is native to your region, it may carry diseases and should never be released.



Chinese mystery snail



KEEP OUR NATION GREEN AND ITS WATER CLEAN!

YOU CAN STOP INVASIVE SPECIES

What should I do with unwanted classroom plants and animals?

Plants: Completely dry or freeze aquatic plants, then add them to a conventional garbage. Composting should be avoided as seeds can still sprout.



Brazilian elodea

Fish and invertebrates: Return to point of purchase or find them a home with a friend or another classroom.



Red eared slider turtle

Water: Add bleach to the water in which the organisms were shipped (5% solution). Put the solution into a toilet or sink, never a storm drain.



Packaging: Packaging also keeps unwanted hitchhikers alive. Treat packaging with a bleach solution and dispose of it in a conventional garbage.



Learn how you can take action!

Visit these sites to learn more:

Fun ways for teachers and students to learn about aquatic invaders:

www.iiseagrant.org/NabInvader

Aquatic species regulations database:

www.iiseagrant.org/speciesregs/

Information about invasive species from Canada:

www.InvadingSpecies.com

Educational Toolkit on Aquatic Invasive Species:

www.seagrant.oregonstate.edu/themes/invasives/toolkit/index.html

Ways you can prevent invasions:

www.protectyourwaters.net/prevention/

The Urban Ocean Program at USC Sea Grant

<http://www.usc.edu/org/seagrant/>

