

NEVER RELEASE!

CLASSROOM PLANTS, ANIMALS OR WATER



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 into the wild.

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

Bullfrog



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 bleach solution and dispose of it in a conventional garbage.



Poster created by Amanda Slade, Oregon Sea Grant. For inquiries contact Sam Chan at Oregon Sea Grant. samuel.chan@oregonstate.edu



What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?

Non-native aquatic plants and animals that cause harm to the economy, the environment, and/or 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



Goldfish

- Contaminate water resources
- Damage infrastructure
- Necessitate expensive controls

Learn how
you can take
action!

www.iiseagrant.org/NabInvader
www.Invadingspecies.com

