

Discussion Stimulators... answers are not necessarily right or wrong.

1. If an animal carries a seed from one place to another it is considered expansion of the plant or natural transportation. If people carry seeds from one continent to another, we consider the resulting plants as non-native. What do you think about these designations?
Consider:
 - a. Transportation of imports and exports
 - b. Agricultural materials
 - c. Vehicles
2. Is it a good idea to use non-natives (plants/insects) to combat “problem” species? (Like fighting fire with fire?)
 - a. What dangers might this pose?
 - b. What benefits?
3. If you are landscaping your property, is it a good thing to use only native plants even though they may not be as pretty as non-native plants?
4. How damaging can a non-native species be to the environment?
 - a. Could it actually change the habitat?
 - b. Could any changes be good?
5. Counting the Cost:
Consider:
 - a. Is it worth it to try to get rid of a non-native invasive?
 - b. Labor/Supplies? How much is “worth it?”
 - c. Lost recreational value?
 - d. Effects on other species, plant and animal.
 - e. Other costs?
 - i. Emotional
 - ii. Educational loss
6. Assuming the same capacity for “carrying”, would a non-native plant have a better chance at establishing itself in a new area if it was moved by a migrating arctic bird or a migrating human traveling east and west? Why? What geographical features need to be considered?
7. Which species of plants or animals have the best chances of establishing themselves worldwide? Specialist plants like cactus/ tropical vines or polar bears/orangutans OR species that can survive in a wide variety of habitats like armadillos or kudzu, privet, wisteria?
8. Brain storm all of the different ways plants and/or animals can be transported long distances.