

Section 3.3

How Introduced Species Affect Ecosystems

Check Your Understanding



Checking Concepts

1. (a) Give an example of a native species.

(b) Give an example of an invasive species.
2. Why are some introduced species a threat to native species?
3. Explain why the threat of introduced invasive species in ecosystems has increased in the past few decades.
4. List three characteristics common to many introduced invasive species.
5. List three ways in which introduced invasive species have an impact on native species.
6. Explain why introduced predators can be more dangerous than native predators.
7. How can introduced species alter habitats?
8. Complete the following chart to summarize the activity of some introduced invasive species in British Columbia.

Introduced Invasive Species	Method of Introduction Into Ecosystem	Negative Effect on Ecosystem
Eurasian milfoil		
Norway rat		
American bullfrog		
European starling		

9. (a) List three introduced species in the Garry oak ecosystem.
- (b) Describe the effect on the Garry oak ecosystem of each of these introduced species.
10. Give an example of an introduced species that:
- (a) is a competitor
 - (b) is a predator
 - (c) causes disease
 - (e) alters habitat

Understanding Key Ideas

11. How do introduced parasites affect ecosystems?

12. What effect does the introduced species shown in the photograph below have on a tropical rainforest ecosystem?



13. How does blister rust indirectly affect squirrels and nutcrackers in the whitebark pine ecosystem?
14. Why do scientists think that if the Garry oak ecosystem survives it may replace Douglas fir forests in the future?

Pause and Reflect

A new field of science called invasive ecology is studying the effects of introduced species. Based on the knowledge you have gained in this section, write a brief explanation for each of the following findings.

- (a) Next to habitat destruction, introduced invasive species cause the greatest number of extinctions worldwide.
- (b) Introduced species tend to be more destructive if they are from a completely different group of organisms than the native plants and animals in an ecosystem.