

Stop the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species Prevention

Prevent intentional and unintentional introductions:

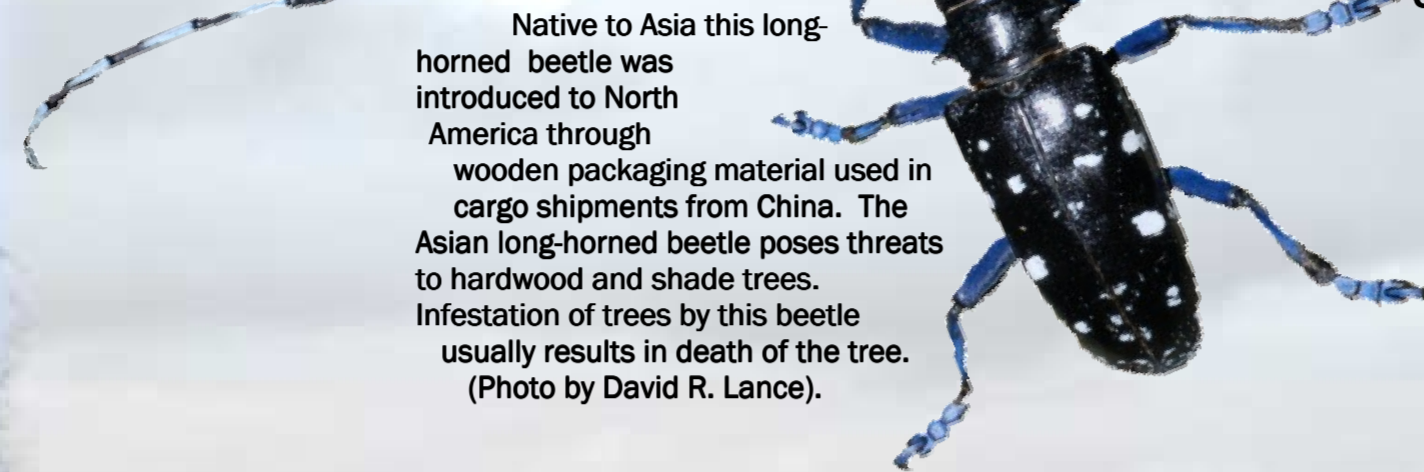
- When purchasing pets know what species are permitted in the province. Understand the long-term commitment you are making. If you have an unwanted pet be sure to find it a new home, rather than releasing it into the wild.
- To reduce the potential for the introduction of invasive plants and plant pests, gardeners can choose local materials including, compost, topsoils, native and locally grown plants.
 - Gardeners can prevent the escape of aggressive non-native garden plants by ensuring all propagules, including seeds, are completely destroyed when being removed from the garden.
- When purchasing insect biological controls and pollinators contact the Wildlife Division as a permit is required to bring many of these agents into the province.
- The use of live aquatic bait, such as crayfish and minnows, is not permitted in Newfoundland and Labrador. Many bait species, such as crayfish, are not native to our freshwater systems and their accidental release could potentially impact our waterways.
- Be a responsible traveler, ensure that all vehicles, equipment, luggage, and even your hip waders and shoes, which could carry seeds, eggs, and organisms are cleaned so that no unwanted plant or animal guests return home with you.
- Don't forget your pets. Unwanted species may be imported unintentionally when we travel with out pets. For example, black-legged ticks which carry lyme disease, and endoparasites such as the French heartworm have been known to hitch a ride on traveling pets. Have your pets examined when returning home to ensure that they are not carriers of exotic species.

Although common throughout the boreal forest, the raccoon is not native to this province. Their omnivorous feeding habits and adaptability have caused conflicts with people in urban areas. The raccoon is also a carrier of many diseases, including rabies. (Photo by Brad Weinert).

Detection

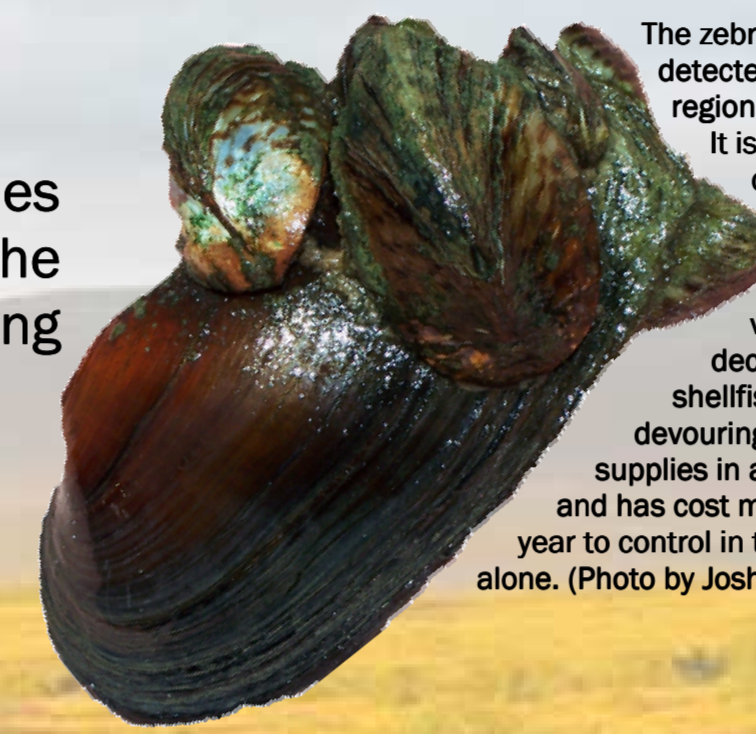
Help detect the presence of invasive alien species by:

- Examining materials you purchase.
 - Fruits and vegetables have been known to contain exotic insects, amphibians and reptiles.
 - Check plant purchases for weeds or bugs.
 - Check wooden crates and other packaging for hitchhiking invertebrates, their cocoons or eggs.
- Properly dispose of any hitchhikers to ensure they are not released into the natural ecosystem. Notify wildlife officials when disposal is difficult or you suspect the organism is dangerous.
- Participate in volunteer monitoring programs which can assist in the discovery of new exotics.



Native to Asia this long-horned beetle was introduced to North America through wooden packaging material used in cargo shipments from China. The Asian long-horned beetle poses threats to hardwood and shade trees. Infestation of trees by this beetle usually results in death of the tree. (Photo by David R. Lance).

Invasive Alien Species: Harmful exotic species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, economy, and/or society, including human health.



The zebra mussel was first detected in the Great Lakes region in 1988. It is responsible for clogging pipes, fouling recreational and commercial vehicles, causing declines in native shellfish populations, devouring available food supplies in aquatic systems, and has cost millions of dollars a year to control in the Great Lakes alone. (Photo by Josh Morff).

Exotic Species: Plants, animals and micro-organisms existing in habitats beyond their natural distribution. Their introduction is usually caused by humans or human activities but most do not become invasive. Also known as: non-native, alien and non-indigenous species.



The snapping turtle will feed on anything it can swallow. Invertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and small mammals are all fair game. The introduction of this new species to aquatic ecosystems in the province could have negative impacts on native fish and invertebrates. (Photo by Ian McIntosh).

For information on legislation, permits and the programs mentioned above please contact the Wildlife Division (709) 637 2026.



Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program.

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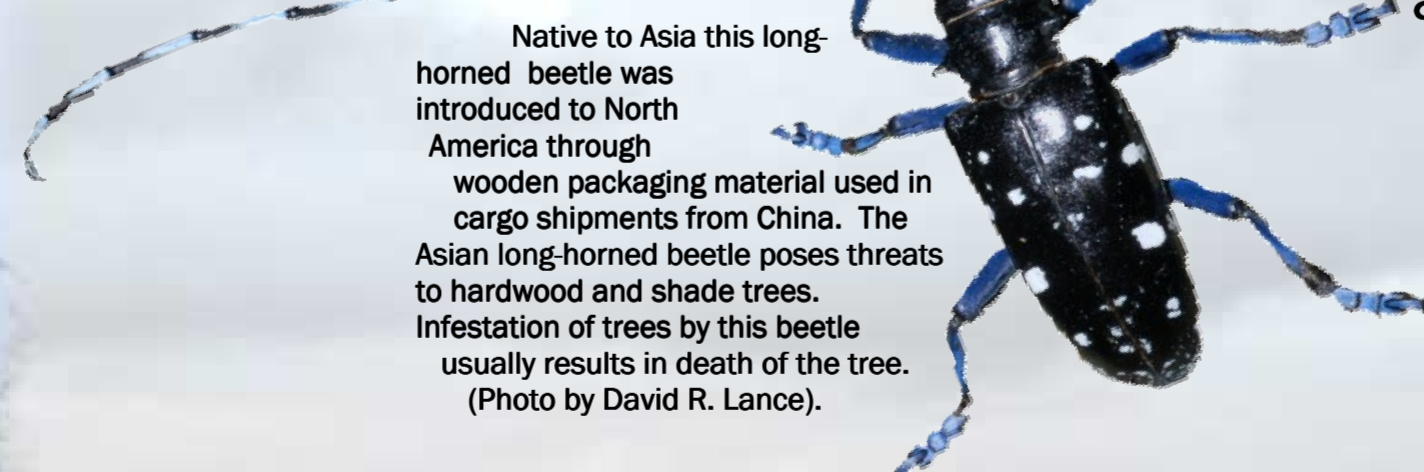
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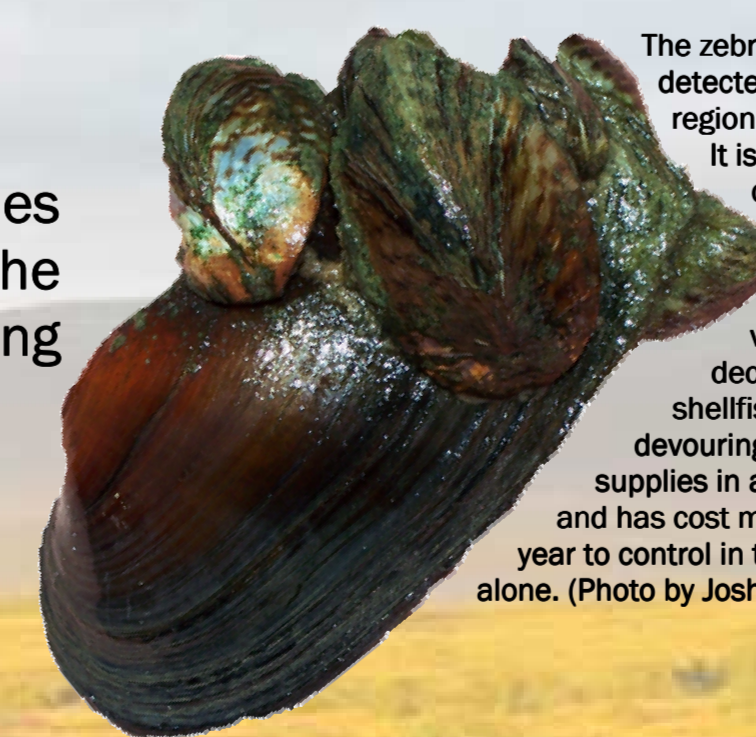
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Education

- Become familiar with local species so that you can recognize exotics. If interested, the provincial General Status Program can provide complete lists of exotic species for some taxonomic groups.
- Learn the law. Current provincial legislation prohibits the importation of most animals without prior consultation with the Wildlife Division. The release of any animal into natural ecosystems is prohibited.
- Prior to applying for an import permit learn as much as you can about the organism. Consider what impacts it may have on the ecosystems of this province.

Canada is home to six species of garter snakes, none of which are native to Newfoundland and Labrador. A voracious feeder the garter snake preys on earthworms, frogs, fish, mice and occasionally bird eggs. Such a diet could have impacts on native populations, and/or affect ecosystem processes. (Photo by Martin Ouellet / Amphibian Nature).

Common milkweed is a noxious weed. This aggressive plant has been known to proliferate in agricultural crop lands and pastures. A potentially lethal plant, livestock mortality has been linked to common milkweed ingestion. (Photo by Matt Below).