

Kathya Maldonado

6th Grade Mrs. Daily

Ella Fitzgerald Academy, Yonkers NY

An ecological problem is a change in the nature around us that causes a disruption for the plants, animals, water, air, and more. A common ecological problem is the introduction of invasive species. Invasive species cause all sorts of harm to the environment around them which results in the loss of not only plants and animals but billions of dollars yearly. Two invasive species that will be discussed are the Asian carp and Lanternfly. Both species, although very different, cause all sorts of devastating damage to our ecosystems and agriculture.

The Asian carp, which is also commonly referred to as a silver carp, grass carp, and bighead carp were brought to the United States in 1970. They were introduced into the ecosystem to help control algae blooms in water treatment plants. However, after ten years the carp escaped captivity into the Mississippi river. Since then, the carp have caused harm to native fish species and disrupted the food chain. Asian carp cause serious damage to the native fish populations in the lakes and rivers that they infest because they out-compete other fish for food and space. When you are out fishing and catch an Asian carp you must kill them, and they can't be returned into the water.¹

Another invasive species that causes harm is the Spotted Lantern Fly. The Spotted Lantern Fly originally from China, India, and Vietnam were first found in the U.S over in Berks County Pennsylvania in 2014.² They are a type of planthopper and not actually a fly. However, they are capable of short flights, which is their primary way of travel. Lanternflies eat a variety of over 70 different plant species which affects our forest ecosystems, and agricultural production. They do this by causing plants to excrete sap or a sap like substance, but at an overwhelming rate which causes the production of a dangerous mold. As well as attracting other insects to the plant or tree.³ The mold can cause branch dieback, leaf wilting, and oozing wounds which can overwhelm the host and result in its death.⁴

In conclusion, invasive species are a huge ecological problem. Invasive species harm our ecosystems, plants and animals. Creating more problems for everything and everyone around and should be killed if you them.

Works Cited

1. "What Are Asian Carp?" *What Are Asian Carp? | U.S. Geological Survey*, www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-are-asian-carp.
2. "Spotted Lanternfly." *Spotted Lanternfly | Chester County, PA - Official Website*, www.chesco.org/3361/Lantern-Fly.
3. "Spotted Lanternfly." *Penn State Extension*, [extension.psu.edu/spotted lanternfly](http://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly).
4. "Spotted Lanternfly in Perspective (U.S. National Park Service)." *National Parks Service*, U.S. Department of the Interior, www.nps.gov/articles/000/slf-in-perspective.htm.