

Pigeons
(*Columba livia*)



Pigeons were actually imported into the United States as a food source and for other uses in the 1600's, arriving first in Nova Scotia in 1606. They have become a major nuisance in many areas by nesting in peoples' homes and can spread diseases and insect pests.

Brown Garden Snail



Only someone who likes French cuisine likes the common snail that plagues our gardens. Like pigeons, the European Brown Garden Snail was imported to use for food. Then it made its escape from the snail ranches in people's yards and quickly (truthfully, it was slower than quickly) spread over California and a few other states.

But these aren't the only foreign pests that want to call California home. Those waiting to sneak in include:

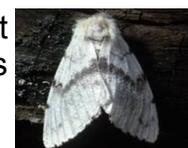
Mediterranean Fruit Fly – its maggots destroy 250 different fruits and vegetables.



Japanese Beetle – its larvae eat up grass in parks, lawns, cemeteries and golf courses.



Gypsy Moth – eats the leaves of most trees and has defoliated millions of acres of forests in the eastern United States.



Red Palm Weevil – kills palm trees by borrowing through the trunk. What would California be like without palm trees?



Quagga Mussels – These mussels are clogging water intake pipes around the Great Lakes and often move on fishing boats. Dangerous to irrigation!



Huanglongbing – Asian Citrus Psyllids carry this disease which kills citrus trees .



To learn more about these and other invasive species, visit

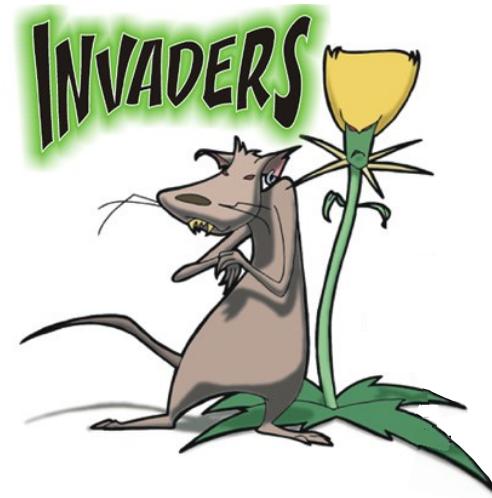
www.cdfa.ca.gov/invasives/

Preventing invasive species from ruining our environment is everyone's job. Buy local produce, report strange bugs and plants and don't bring "live plant & animal souvenirs" home from other states and countries!



PESKY NEIGHBORS

Invasive Species In Our Midst



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Plant and animal pests from foreign countries can change our lives and California's environment. In fact, many of these pests have already arrived. Keeping other foreign pests out requires your help and cooperation. When traveling outside of California, please don't bring back live souvenir plants or animals!

Foreign Pests We Live With Every Day

Mustard



Those springtime displays of yellow flowers over hillsides and vacant lots are the result of Spanish missionaries using mustard to mark the early routes between missions and other outposts back in the 1700's. Mustard has displaced California native plants and is a primary fuel for fires.

Argentine Ants



Yes, those little black ants you see in your yards and in your house are actually from South America. These ants

are responsible for more than annoying you when they invade your house; they also make aphids, whiteflies and scale insects a bigger problem by protecting those insects from their natural predators and parasites.

Tumbleweeds



Everywhere you look in the late summer you see big round plants in vacant lots, fields and other open space. When they dry out, they break free and are blown all over the place, across highways and piling up against walls and fences. Introduced in wheat seed from Russia in the 1800's, tumbleweeds have spread over the entire western United States.

Rats



Rats spread diseases! They also damage a lot of food and property by their chewing, droppings and urine. Most people are thoroughly disgusted and alarmed to find a rat in their home or garage. Rats arrived in America by boat in the early 1500's.

Cockroaches



German
(*Blattella germanica*)



Oriental
(*Blatta orientalis*)

Cockroaches are found in warm, moist areas, and are most active at night. They are rarely seen during daylight hours unless you have a BIG problem. Just one live roach seen during the day could mean at least 50-100 more "friends" hiding in the walls. Roaches most likely entered America about the same time as rats.



Opossum (*Didelphia virginiana*)

Opossums were first introduced from the east coast to Los Angeles in 1890, to San Jose in 1910, and later to Visalia. Importation was done on purpose because some people thought they made mighty fine eatin', those people likely being recent introductions themselves! The ones in Visalia were imported as fur-bearers because opossum fur was valuable for use in clothing (varmint garments?). Opossum are usually dripping with diseases such as tuberculosis, toxoplasmosis, and Chagas disease, not to mention the vast quantities of