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### Overview:

In “Naturalist Night,” Sara Guiher speaks at the Lake Erie Center about what invasive species are and why they are problematic.

### Summary:

“What Is an Invasive Plant?” features Naturalist Sara Guiher discussing how to define invasive plant species noting some important distinctions: the plants are non-native, are harmful to the environment, to public health, and the economy. Guiher then considers how to recognize and manage different invasive plant species.

**ODE 9-12 STANDARD: Science; Course, Biology; Topic, Diversity and Independence of Life (B.DI. 1, 2, 3)**

### Discussion Questions:

1. How have invasive plant species affected regions of the United States? Using research, cite specific species and their effects on the environment, public, or economy.
2. Brainstorm different ways in which invasive plant species might enter the local environment.
3. What are some processes for preventing the introduction or growth of invasive plant species?

### Activity:

Break the class up into small groups and, within each group, identify one plant species in a foreign ecosystem that could pose as an invasive species in the United States. These plants should have some, if not all, of the traits: rapid growth, prolific reproduction, wide range of suitable habits, effective dispersal, early leaf-out, lack of natural enemies, and allopathy.

Explain in detail why this species would be harmful to the ecosystem, human health, and the economy. Determine how this species might be transported to the United States, and what steps naturalists can take to prevent introduction of invasive species.

### Resources:

National Invasive Species Information Center: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/>

United States Department of Agriculture: Invasive Plants: <https://www.fs.fed.us/>

Smithsonian Insider: <https://insider.si.edu/?s=invasive+plants>

