

Invasive Georgia 9-12 Virtual Outreach

Program Description:

- Humans are altering landscapes, ecosystems and global patterns, from climate change to introduction of non-native species and much more. Non-native species often get introduced to a new area accidentally and can take root to become an invasive species which negatively impacts the environment. Students will identify invasive species in Georgia and create a plan of action to manage the problems.

Essential Question(s):

- How do invasive species enter an ecosystem and then negatively impact it?

Georgia Standards of Excellence:

- **SEC3.** Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information to construct explanations of community interactions.
 - **SEC3c.** Construct an explanation based on evidence that describes the impact of keystone, invasive, native, indicator, and rare species in Georgia ecosystems.

Next Generation Science Standards:

- **HS-LS2-7.** Design, evaluate, and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the environment and biodiversity.

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Georgia Native Ecology

This an example of an ecological analysis of a single species.

Eastern Wild Turkey



Eastern wild turkeys use to be so abundant, they were found as often as deer. Their population levels reached their lowest between 1900-1930 due to habitat loss and aggressive hunting levels. Thanks to relocation efforts and habitat management, the turkey population has bounced back.

Ecological Role

Turkeys nest on the ground in a variety of cover types. They prefer dense brush or other concealment. Wild turkeys need a diverse habitat to meet their yearlong food requirements. Turkeys stay on the move and feed throughout the day. These daily feeding activities may cover several miles, depending on food availability. Wild turkeys will eat about anything they come across, eating primarily plant materials. Green plants like clovers and vetches are excellent sources of Vitamin A and protein. Young turkeys require a diet high in protein. Eating both plants and insects help to keep both populations in control and balanced. Turkeys are preyed upon by hawks, owls, foxes, coyotes, bobcats and domesticated dogs.

Economic Role

Turkeys are highly valued among hunters for large bird game hunting as well as the main course during Thanksgiving dinner for many families.

Try it for yourself!



EDUCATION

GEORGIA AQUARIUM

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Instructions: Research the invasive species common to Georgia neighborhoods and provide a description of it's ecological impact.



Giant Salvinia



Argentine Tegu



Blueback Herring



Hydrilla

