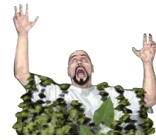


## Module 1 ~ Silent Invaders (UE)

# Non-Native Plants Reading Activity



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Read the following passage and then use what you've learned to answer the questions below in complete sentences.

When someone says a plant is a **non-native plant**, they are referring to a type of plant (species) found in a region outside its original, historic range. In general, if a plant was introduced to Florida after the time of Christopher Columbus and other European explorers around the year 1513, it is considered non-native. More than 1000 non-native plant species can be found in Florida's natural areas.

Some non-native plants are brought to Florida on purpose and others arrive accidentally on boats, ships, trains, airplanes and in people's luggage when they returned from a trip. Today's modern transportation makes it easy for non-native plants to survive the journey from one part of the world to another. Long ago, non-native plants didn't travel so easily.

Many non-native plants are beneficial to our economy and they don't harm the environment. Examples are garden plants like roses and also important farm crops like peanut plants and orange trees. Most of these have to be taken care of (cultivated) in order to grow in Florida. However, some non-native plants can grow well without help from us. Because they are from someplace else, they arrived without the natural enemies, diseases and other factors (like the climate) that keep them under control in their native habitat. Sometimes they grow so well, they can become a big problem. But that's another story.



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### Non-Native Plants Reading Activity (UE) – answer in complete sentences

1. What is meant by a non-native plant species?



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A Collaboration of the UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants  
and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission / Invasive Plant Management Section

