



Protect Your Pets

Perhaps your pets are too plentiful.

Or, they just can't get along.

Or, maybe, your aquarium plants are taking over your tank.



Whatever the issue...

DON'T RELEASE Aquarium Plants or Pets into the Wild!

Pets may not be able to survive outdoor temperatures.

Pets may starve or face predators and parasites.

Even worse, your pet could become an **INVASIVE SPECIES!**



Preserve the Environment

If released into the wild, many exotic plants and animals can become pests and a major problem to people and native species.

When this happens they are often called **invaders** or **invasive species**.

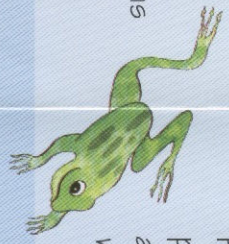
Invasive species can...

Take over natural habitats and force out native species.

Deplete fisheries by eating juvenile fish and fish eggs.

Choke waters preventing swimming and boating.

Spread diseases that can harm humans and wildlife.



Don't Release Exotic Species

Instead of releasing your pet...

Donate your pet to a **PUBLIC PLACE:** a nature museum, aquarium, school, community center, or nursing home.

Give your pet to **PEOPLE:** your family, friends, neighbors, or other hobbyists.

Contact your **PET STORE** for advice: some pet stores may actually allow you to return your pet.

And don't forget to always...
Put aquatic plants in the trash and pour aquarium water down the toilet.

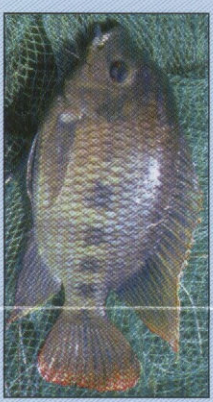


Help keep our waters in the northeast free from aquatic invasive species!
Here are just two examples of aquarium plants and animals that have become invasive in other regions.



Caulerpa taxifolia has spread throughout the Mediterranean Sea like a carpet, taking over the natural marine habitat and crowding out many of the native seaweeds and sea animals.

Photo by Alexandre Menesz



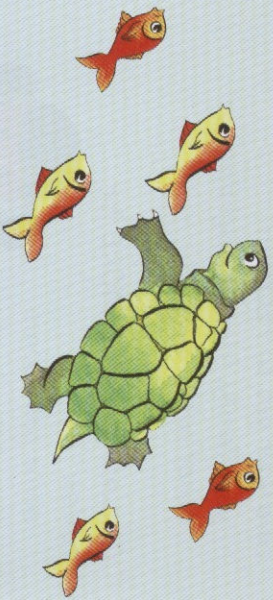
Tilapia mariae may look harmless but this aggressive predator has spread throughout the state of Florida decreasing native fish populations by devouring their food sources.

Photo by James Williams

You can help prevent
invasive species.

To learn more, visit

www.massbays.org/stopinvasaders.html
or by phone at 617.626.1229



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