7th Grade Informational: Non-Native Plants

Task Prompt: Write an explanatory article to explain why some non-native plants succeed in new environments while others become nuisances. Using more than one source, select the most relevant information to support your thesis/controlling idea about non-native plants.

Not All Bad

Most people say non-native plants are harmful to the native plants but, that is not always true. Yes, they can crowd and kill off native plants and the animals that depend on the plants. But research shows non-native plants do not typically wipe out all the native plants in the area. Before we get to if non-native plants are bad or not, lets see how they get to the places where they are non-native.

The non-native plants can be brought to a place by accident or on purpose. For an example, the soil holding down the ballast can have seeds in it without them knowing. Then when they reach their destination and the ballast gets emptied, the seeds will be transported in to the ground of that country by accident. Plants can also be put into the soil on purpose by people from neighboring countryside.They might use it as a food source but don't control it and the plant becomes invasive. As you can see, plants can be brought there by accident or on purpose.

Now lets talk about how non-native plants can be invasive. Non-native plants can grow if not controlled and crowd the native plants. The native plants then can become extinct. Then the animals that feed off of that plants can die or migrate to different areas because they lost one of their food sources. There is a place in North Carolina that has the non-native plant Kudzu growing next their fence. After a couple of years the kudzu took over the fence and it is no longer visible. They then brought in goats to eat the invasive plant but it grew back worse each year. that is how non-native plants can be invasive.

Non-native plants are not always invasive. if they grow in an area with lots of insects and animals, then the insects and animals will keep the non-native plants in check. The non-native plants are also adding the things to our food web every day. There are a lot of non-native plants in New Zealand but they have only wiped out three of New Zealand's native plants. that shows that non-native plants do not always wipe out a bunch of native plants. Some non-native plants can also be easily managed.

That is why non-native plants can be invasive but not always are. They can wipe out native plants but not usually. They can crowd native plants, but are always adding new things to our food web every day.