Invasive Species in your waterways

Invasive species are all around us. Be very careful when working with invasive species and never handle them - they can be very dangerous!

This activity is deigned to be carried out alongside regular testing sessions using Water Rangers testkits. Alternatively, it can be done as a stand alone scavenger hunt or excursion! You will likely not find all species in one area, but you may be suprised at how widespread the ones listed below will be!

What makes a species invasive?

- Invasive species are any kind of living organism which does not normally appear in an ecosystem
- invasive species are often brought into an ecosystem accidentally by human activity
- invasive species can have a negative effect on an ecosystem by *outcompeting* with native plants and animals.

Invasive Spotlight:
Phragmites is a common reed in parts of western Asia that was transported to North America and indeitifiedz here in 2005.

List of invasive species

1. Purple loostrife
2. Dog strangling vine
3. zebra mussels
4. common buckthorn
5. phragmites

What you will do:

- find a water body to carry out a water rangers test
- While you are testing your water, observe your surroundings. what do you see?
- Search for each species while out testing. How many can you find? You might find that some of them are very widespread and easy to identify.

Post-activity reflection:

1. Where did you find your invasive species? How were they affecting the ecosystem around them?
2. take photos of the invasive species and upload them along with your water test data.

Heads up! If you would like more information and activities on invasive species, visit this link: https://waterrangers.ca/2021/06/18/invasive-species-bingo/