

WHAT FLORIDIANS THINK ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES

Florida is the home to over 500 nonnative plants and animals that may present a threat to the state's native plants and animals and become invasive, creating many implications for Floridians. The UF/IFAS Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources recently surveyed 539 Floridians to explore what they think about invasive species in Florida. This study revealed that Floridians are concerned about invasive species but admit to lacking knowledge on types of invasive species in Florida or what government efforts are put in place to control invasive species.

FLORIDIANS INTERESTED IN SEEING MORE NEWS COVERAGE

A recent survey by the Center for Public Issues Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources revealed Floridians lack knowledge on invasive species despite being concerned about the issues surrounding invasive species.

Over half of Floridians reported not seeing news coverage related to invasive species in the past month, but 75 percent of respondents say they are likely or very likely to pay attention to this type of news coverage.

Only 23 percent of respondents reported seeing news coverage on invasive species in the past month. When asked what

specific type of news coverage the respondents had seen, 24 percent of respondents reported seeing coverage related to pythons, and 16 percent reported coverage related to lionfish.

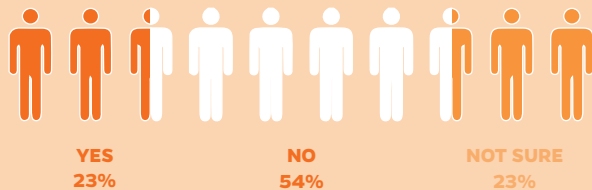
Survey participants were also asked about their knowledge related to invasive species, including types of invasive species, government control and prevention efforts, and personal prevention.

Sixty percent of respondents indicated their knowledge level about invasives as "not at all" or "slightly knowledgeable," with 20 percent saying "not at all knowledgeable."

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OF FLORIDIANS SAY THEY ARE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE OF INVASIVE SPECIES



"I HAVE SEEN NEWS COVERAGE RELATED TO INVASIVE SPECIES IN THE LAST MONTH?"



HOW LIKELY ARE FLORIDIANS TO PAY ATTENTION TO A NEWS STORY DEALING WITH ISSUES RELATED TO INVASIVE SPECIES?

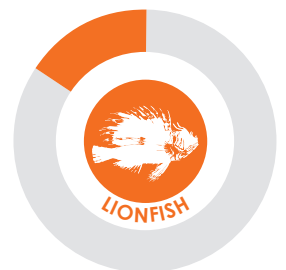


OF THE 23 PERCENT OF FLORIDIANS WHO HAD SEEN NEWS COVERAGE ON INVASIVE SPECIES:

24% REPORTED SEEING NEWS COVERAGE RELATED TO PYTHONS IN THE LAST MONTH.



16% REPORTED SEEING NEWS COVERAGE RELATED TO LIONFISH IN THE LAST MONTH.



RESIDENTS CONCERNED ABOUT INVASIVES

Eighty percent of Floridians say the harm to native species is an important factor to be considered by government agencies when prioritizing efforts to control invasive species.

Invasive species cost the United States \$120 billion in damages each year¹. Sixty-four percent of Floridians say the people who introduced the invasive species should have to pay for managing the invasives and repairing damage, while 58 percent believe the state government should cover the cost. Only 22 percent of respondents say that citizens should have to pay.

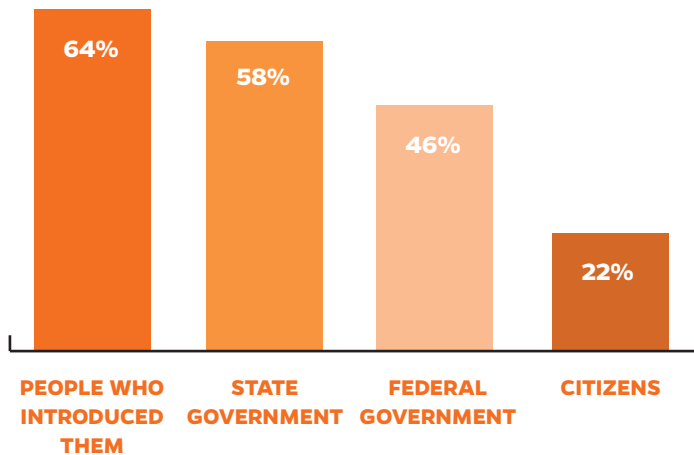
When Floridians were asked to rank their concern for invasive species with 10 representing “extremely concerned,” 20 percent selected 10. Over 70 percent of respondents ranked their concern at a 7 or higher.

¹Pimentel, D., Zuniga, R., & Morrison, D. (2005). Update on the environmental and economic costs associated with alien-invasive species in the United States. *Ecological Economics*, 52(3), 273-288. doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2004.10.002

72% OF FLORIDIANS RATED THEIR CONCERN FOR INVASIVE SPECIES AT A 7 OR HIGHER

SCALE WAS FROM 1 - 10, 1 BEING NOT CONCERNED AND 10 BEING EXTREMELY CONCERNED.

WHO SHOULD PAY THE FINANCIAL COST FOR MANAGING INVASIVE SPECIES AND REPAIR?

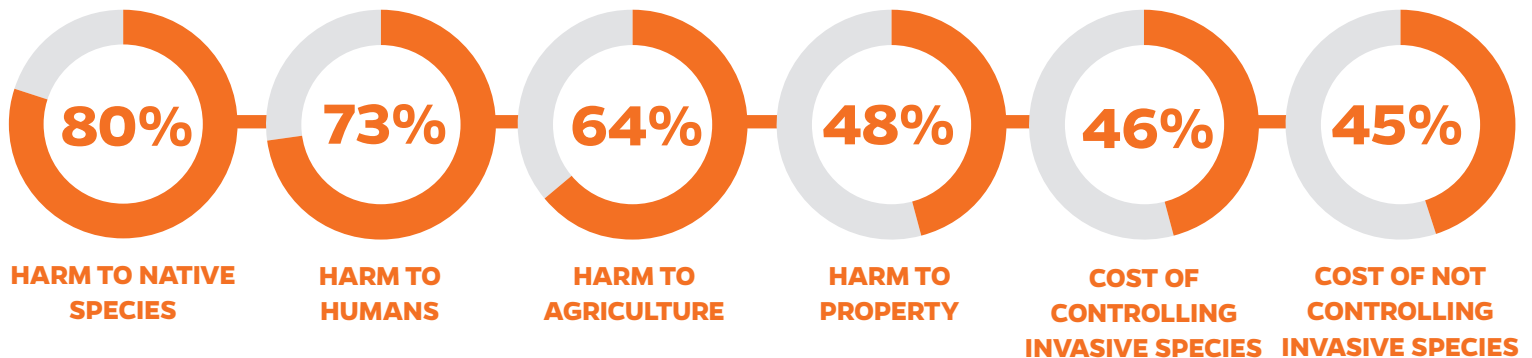


ABOUT OUR SURVEYS

PIE Center surveys explore what Floridians think about the rights, responsibilities, attitudes and behaviors associated with critical issues such as food production, water quantity and quality, community preparedness, and endangered and invasive species.



WHAT FACTORS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHEN PRIORITIZING EFFORTS TO CONTROL INVASIVE SPECIES?



Data from this survey was collected in July 2016 and this issue guide was published in December 2016.