

Adaptive & Damaging

GIANT AFRICAN SNAIL



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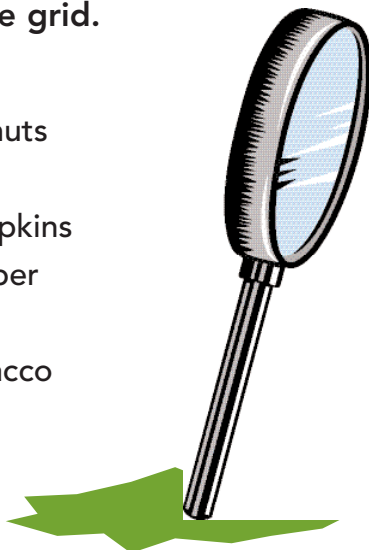
One of the most **DAMAGING** land snails in the world

It is illegal to bring giant African snails into the United States. These snails are **INVASIVE** and a target of the **U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**. Originally from East Africa, the snails now are found in the Caribbean and Hawaiian Islands and South America. Compared to our native snails, these snails are **HUGE**— about the size of an average adult fist. The snails are brown with a light-brown shell, striped with brown and cream bands. The giant African snail is known to eat at least 500 different types of plants, including peanuts, beans, peas, cucumbers, and melons. If fruits and vegetables are not available, the snails will eat a wide variety of ornamental plants, tree bark, and even paint and stucco on houses!

PUZZLE INSPECTION!

To learn more about the crops eaten by the **Giant African Snail**, see if you can find the words from the list below in the puzzle grid.

Beans	Peanuts
Breadfruit	Peas
Coffee	Pumpkins
Cotton	Rubber
Cucumbers	Tea
Melons	Tobacco



B C O T T O N Y T P S Y S N C
 C R X R D X W F U N N X O Z X
 G N E P U W W M I M O N J U R
 S Z Q A B B P A E T L Q X C Y
 Z R U L D K B L O K E G M U M
 T V Y Y I F K E F Z M H V C L
 W D I N I O R I R X F E V U R
 O L S D I S T U N A E P H M P
 Y C K T H Z Z I I F T P Y B B
 E O C R I H U L C T I E B E J
 V T P A T B C R K Q E B X R M
 L N Q P B P P T B F J E L S Z
 G J E U C O Q F F L C A I M Z
 F A N E I K T O Q Y U N W E D
 S A W C R Y C E L F V S D B Z

ANSWERS: Back page

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)



If the average lifespan of a **GIANT AFRICAN SNAIL** is 3 years and it hatches 100 eggs every 3 months, how many offspring would be born over the life of the snail?

COMPARE THE SIZE DIFFERENCE!

The giant African snail can reach almost 8 inches in length and 4 inches in diameter. A major league baseball is less than 3 inches in diameter, and ordinary snails average less than an inch.

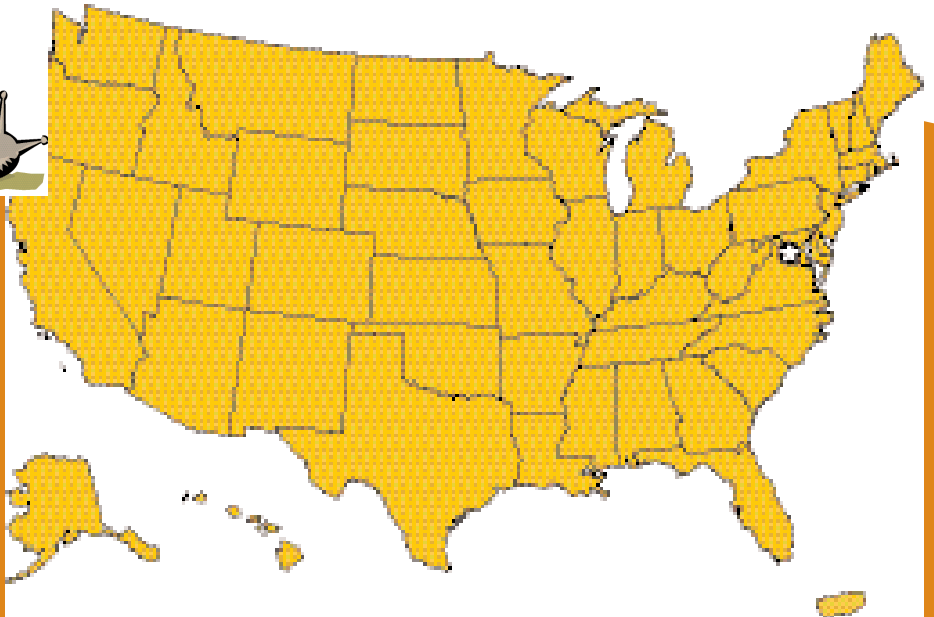


The introduction of giant African snails into the United States might occur through illegal importation. Found in the baggage of international travelers and in plant shipments from the Hawaiian Islands, these snails are routinely seized by inspectors at U.S. airports and seaports. **USDA** has recently discovered and confiscated illegal giant African snails from pet stores, schools, and private

breeders in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Ohio. Although these snails are admired and wanted for their impressive size, they do not make suitable pets. Each snail contains both female and male reproductive organs and can produce between 100 and 500 eggs every 2 to 3 months. These snails can also transmit several serious diseases, such as meningitis, to humans.

Two qualities make the giant African snail dangerous to U.S. agriculture. First, it can survive in cold conditions by hibernating. Second, it is a whiz at reproduction.

GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE!



In 1966, a boy from Miami, FL, smuggled three giant African snails into Florida when he returned from a trip to Hawaii. His grandmother eventually released the snails into her garden. Seven years later, more than 18,000 snails were found nearby! **It cost the State of Florida \$1 million and took 10 years to eradicate the snails.** Since then, giant African snails have been found in many other States, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, and on the island of Puerto Rico.

Test your geography knowledge and thinking skills by answering the questions to the right.

Can you locate the States on this map where the giant African snails have been found or eradicated?

Can you name other places in the world where the snails are found? _____

Why is it possible for the snails to live in different parts of the world and within the United States? _____

Looking at the map of the United States, where else might the snails appear in the future? Why? _____

ANSWERS

PUZZLE INSPECTION!

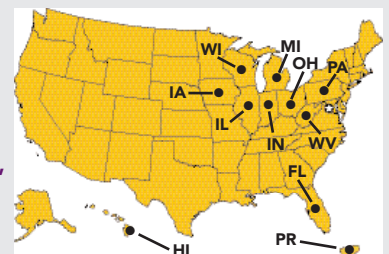


QUESTION

If the average lifespan of a **giant African snail** is 3 years and it hatches 100 eggs every 3 months, how many offspring would be born over the life of the snail? **1,200 eggs**

GEOGRAPHY CHALLENGE!

Can you locate the States where the giant African snails have been found or eradicated? **Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, West Virginia, and Wisconsin**



Can you name other places in the world where the snails are found? **East Africa, the Caribbean, and South America**

Why is it possible for the snails to live in different parts of the world and within the United States? **The snails are able to live in both hot and cold conditions.**

Looking at the map of the United States, where else might the snails appear in the future? Why? **Anywhere. These snails are routinely found in travelers' baggage at the airport and sold in pet stores. Many people do not know they are illegal.**