Invasive Species

Invasive species are species that are introduced to an ecosystem and cause harm to the environment. Here are some examples:

Whitefly

Invasive insect species can cause severe damage to crops. The silver leaf whitefly causes damage to tomatoes, okra, beans, squash, cucumber, poinsettia, eggplant, and cotton. The whitefly eats the plant, and can give it diseases like cassava brown streak virus, tomato yellow curl leaf virus. Once the plants have these diseases, we can't eat them.

Pine Beetles

Invasive insect species can cause a lot of damage to forests. For example, pine beetles infect pine trees with diseases that turn their needles brown, and eventually kill pine trees in mountainous areas, like the Rocky Mountains in Colorado.

Aedes Mosquito

Invasive insects can carry diseases to new locations! For example, the Aedes mosquito acts as a host for the Zika virus, which causes fever, joint and muscle pain, and headache.

Steps to Create a Robot

Follow the steps below to create your invasive species tracker.

Step One: Read Requirements

Read the requirements for your robot below.

- Must be smaller than the size of a shoebox
- Must have a sensor, like a camera, to detect the insect
- Must have a GPS locator to tell scientists where it finds invasive species
- Must be able to send messages to scientists letting them know that an invasive species is entering a new habitat
- Must be able to send messages to scientists to alert them if the robot is stuck or is broken

Step Two: Brainstorm Ideas

Use the space below to brainstorm ideas for your robot.

Step Three: Build Your Robot

Use supplies from your teacher to build your robot!