

# CLASS NOTES

## Season 2, Episode 5 : HABs & Invasive Species: Fighting Florida's Ecosystem Disruptors

Featured Guests: Dr. Lisa Krinsky, Water Resource Regional Specialized Agent for UF/IFAS Extension Southeast District

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### Key Takeaways

- Invasive species are non-native organisms that become established in a new environment, and harm the native ecosystem, economy or human health.
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) occur where algae grow excessively in a body of water, potentially harming other organisms and the environment.
- Both HABs and Invasive Species can serve as ecosystem disruptors, upsetting the natural balance of freshwater lakes and estuaries.
- Management of these species can be complex and costly, which is why it is important to understand the preferences of stakeholders in the area when choosing the best path forward.

### Additional Resources

- National Invasive Species Information Center: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/us/florida>
- UF/IFAS Extension HABs Water Program: <https://water.ifas.ufl.edu/harmful-algal-blooms/>
- Dr. Lisa Krinsky Directory Page: <https://clue.ifas.ufl.edu/faculty/lisa-krinsky/>

### Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been to an area where a harmful algal bloom was occurring? What did you notice, and how did it impact your experience?
- What are some common invasive species that you have heard of before? Do you know how they got here?
- What effects do you think these ecosystem disruptions have on tourism in an area? How do they effect daily life of residents?
- What are the challenges of managing these ecosystem disruptions?
- Activity: Split into at least four groups, which will each take the position of different stakeholders invested in managing Hydrilla in your local area. The stakeholder groups can include: Homeowners, the local Tourism Board, Recreational Fishers, the Fish & Wildlife Commission, the Water Management District, and Environmental Interest Groups. Weighing all the pros and cons, come to a consensus about the optimal management strategy.

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**UF/IFAS Food & Resource Economics**  
**and**  
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