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Deliberate Introductions of Species: Research Needs: Benefits can be reaped, but risks are high FREE

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Introductions of nonindigenous organisms can be both a boon and a bane to society. Humans depend heavily on non-native organisms for food, shelter, medicine, ecosystem services, aesthetic enjoyment, and cultural identity. Over 70% of the world's food comes from just nine crops (wheat, maize, rice, potato, barley, cassava, soybean, sugar cane, and oats; Sattaur 1989, Prescott-Allen and Prescott-Allen 1990), each of which is cultivated far beyond its natural range. Similarly, 85% of industrial forestry plantations are established with species of just three genera (*Eucalyptus*, *Pinus*, and *Tectona*), which are also largely cultivated as exotics (Evans 1992). Thus, although native organisms fulfill some human requirements, non-native organisms play an integral role in the economies and cultures of all regions (Figure 1). In New Zealand, for example, more than 95% of export earnings derives from alien species...

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