

# ASIAN CLAM

*Corbicula fluminea*  
Cyrenidae, the freshwater clam family

## FACTSHEET INFORMATION

### Summary of Invasiveness

- Asian clams are a fresh, inland water bivalve that is causing numerous issues in the waterbodies it has been introduced to.
- Transported via watercraft, ballast water, or water related equipment.
- Costs industry about 1 billion dollars every year due to impacts on infrastructure.
- Outcompetes native species for resources.
- Mass reproduction and filter feeding changes water chemistry which effects all life in the environment from fish to plants.

### Diagnostic Characteristics

- Medium-sized bivalve with a yellow-green to brown shell.
- Evenly spaced ridges on shell surface.
- Usually 1 inch in length but can grow larger.

### Introduction and Movement

- Native to southern Asia; first introduced into Idaho in 1959.
- Inhabits lakes, streams, and other waterways
- Can self-fertilize which leads to high reproduction rate and easy spread.
- Easily transported via watercraft, ballast water, or water related construction equipment.

### Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, ensure that your watercraft and water related equipment is thoroughly cleaned, drained, and dry.
- When passing inspection stations during their hours of operations, make sure to stop for an inspection and decontamination.
- After visiting waters that are out of state, especially states with infested waters, ensure that your boat has been inspected or allowed dry time of at least 30 days prior to launching in Idaho waters.
- Always Remember To: **CLEAN & DRAIN & DRY**

#### Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/88200>.



Halshadow, Getty Images Signature



Robyn Drahem, USFWS-Pacific Region



U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org