

Asian green mussel

Call Biosecurity Queensland immediately on 13 25 23 if you see this species



Asian green mussel (*Perna viridis*)

- It is illegal to import, keep, breed or sell Asian green mussels in Queensland.
- Asian green mussels can out-compete native species.
- They are introduced via ships' ballast water, hulls and internal seawater systems.
- They have a bright green juvenile shell and a dark green to brown adult shell.
- They have a smooth exterior with concentric growth rings.
- Early detection helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

The Asian green mussel is a large mussel 8–16 cm long. Juveniles have a distinctive bright green shell, which fades to brown with green edges in adults. The exterior surface of the shell is smooth with concentric growth rings and a slightly concave abdominal margin. The inner surface of the shell is smooth with an iridescent pale blue to green hue.

The ridge, which supports the ligament connecting the two shell valves, is finely pitted. The beak has interlocking teeth—one in the right valve, two in the left. Characteristic features of this species include a wavy posterior and a large kidney-shaped abductor muscle.

Pest risk

The Asian green mussel is a prohibited marine animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. Prohibited species must be reported immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**.

Fouls hard surfaces, including vessel hulls, seawater systems, industrial intake pipes, wharves, artificial substrates and buoys.

Asian green mussels accumulate high concentrations of toxins and heavy metals, which can cause shellfish poisoning if eaten by humans.

What should I do?

Slipway operators, vessels inspectors and vessel owners should regularly and thoroughly check and clean vessel hulls and niche areas such as internal seawater systems.

If you think you have seen Asian green mussels, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23**. Until an authorised officer contacts you, please take reasonable and practical steps to prevent the Asian green mussels from spreading.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit our website at biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

Images courtesy of the Northern Territory Government