

Invasive Species Alert

Golden Mussel

(*Limnoperna fortunei*)

Not detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Average shell length: 20 mm
- Maximum shell length: 40-60 mm
- Shells are golden or yellowish
- Dorsal mantle fusion
- May form colonies as large as 80,000 individuals per square meter



Conquiliologistas Do Brasil

Photo by Carlos Henckes,
Conquiliologistas Do Brasil

Habitat: Golden mussels are a primarily freshwater species.

They are capable of tolerating polluted and contaminated water, brackish water, waters relatively low in pH and calcium levels, heated waters, and waters subject to periodic hypoxia through organic enrichment.

Diet: These filter feeders consume phytoplankton, zooplankton, and organic matter as adults, while larvae feed on bacteria.



Photo by Gustavo Derrigran

Native Range: China and southeastern Asia

Local Concern: Golden mussels could act as a host for parasitic infections to cyprinid fishes, threaten biodiversity, and could starve out and suffocate native bivalves.

Potential Means of Introduction: Ballast water, shipments of live Asian clams

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