

Burmese Pythons in Florida

Help Stop the Spread of this Invasive Species



Pat Lynch, SFWMD



What is a Burmese python?

The Burmese python is a large, nonvenomous constrictor snake that has been introduced to Florida. These snakes threaten the Everglades ecosystem, including native wildlife. They can reproduce in great numbers and eat a wide variety of food items ranging from eggs to small deer.

How to identify a Burmese python

Burmese pythons are tan in color with dark “giraffe” blotches on the back and sides that are irregularly shaped and fit together tightly like puzzle pieces. Burmese pythons have a dark arrowhead shape on top of their head and a dark wedge behind the eye.



Burmese pythons can hide in overgrown vegetation. Kevin Enge, FWC.

Some common native snakes that are confused with Burmese pythons:



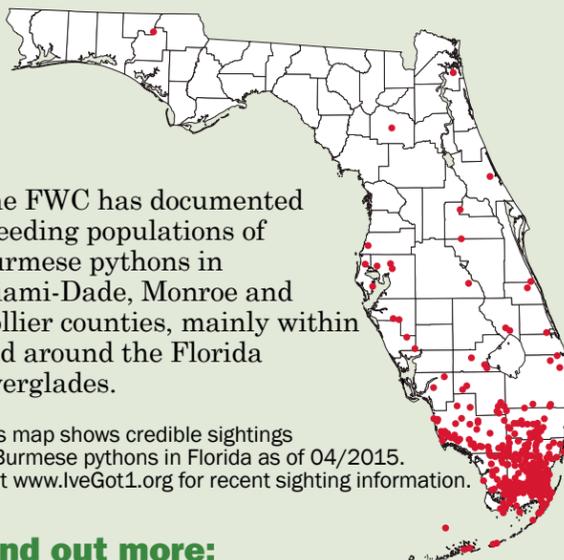
Corn snake



Brown water snake, © Edward Mercer

Burmese python fast facts

- Can grow up to 20 feet in length.
- Average size removed in Florida: 8-10 feet.
- Native to South Asia.
- Females lay about 30-40 eggs per year.
- Can live past 20 years in captivity.
- Skin pattern provides effective camouflage in landscape, making snakes difficult to see.
- “Sit and wait” predators that prey on birds, mammals and reptiles.
- In Florida they can no longer be acquired as personal pets.
- Federal law prohibits transport across state lines or import into the country without a federal permit.



The FWC has documented breeding populations of Burmese pythons in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier counties, mainly within and around the Florida Everglades.

This map shows credible sightings of Burmese pythons in Florida as of 04/2015. Visit www.IveGot1.org for recent sighting information.

Find out more:

Burmese pythons in Florida, management efforts and how you help at MyFWC.com/Python.

If you see a python:

1. Take a picture
2. Note the location
3. Report the sighting

How to report a sighting:

1. Call the Exotic Species Hotline: 888-Ive-Got1 (888-483-4681)
2. Report online: www.IveGot1.org
3. Download the free IveGot1 app

Please put this poster up!

Help inform others about Burmese pythons.