Green iguanas cause significant economic impacts by damaging infrastructure by digging burrows that erode and collapse sidewalks, foundations, seawalls, berms, roadways and canal banks. Green iguanas and other burrowing nonnative reptiles cause millions of dollars of damage annually to water control structures and roadways in Florida. This can create threats to human health and safety if important infrastructure is damaged or degraded.
Impacts in Florida

Green iguanas adversely impact native wildlife by competing with and preying on native plants and wildlife including vulnerable species. Green iguanas are primarily herbivores that consume foliage or flowers, but adult green iguanas can also feed opportunistically on protected bird eggs, other small animals, and dead animals. Green iguanas have been documented consuming native tree snails and nickerbean plants, a larval host plant of the endangered Miami blue butterfly.

Green iguanas commonly create conflict with home and property owners when they consume landscaped ornamental vegetation and leave droppings on docks, boats, seawalls, porches, decks and in swimming pools. Iguanas can bite and scratch when provoked and there are several records of wild iguanas injuring people in Florida.

Control and Management

Minimizing adverse impacts from green iguanas continues to be a priority for the FWC and partner agencies. FWC staff have managed green iguanas in Florida through:

- Providing technical assistance to impacted homeowners, empowering them to control iguanas on their property.
- Contracting removal where iguanas have damaged infrastructure and in ecologically sensitive areas, such as the Florida Keys.
- Supporting innovative research aimed at improving iguana detection and removal.
- Removing regulatory barriers for the public to humanely kill nonnative reptiles on public lands.

Management Focus:

Providing Technical Assistance for Impacted Homeowners.

Early Detection/Rapid Response for Reports Outside of Established Range.

Removing Iguanas from Sensitive Ecological Areas.