

Burmese python fast facts

- Can grow up to 20 feet in length.
- Average size removed in Florida: 8-10 feet.
- Native to South Asia.
- In cool months, active during the day.
- In warm months, seen at night on roads.
- Females lay about 50-100 eggs per year.
- Can live past 20 years in captivity.
- Skin pattern provides effective camouflage in landscape, making snakes difficult to see in the wild.
- “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.



FWC officer Dave Weis with Burmese python caught off Alligator Alley.
FWC photo by David Bingham.

If you see a python:

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

In addition to Burmese pythons, the FWC would like reports of other nonnative species in Florida.

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 IveGot1 app
Free for smart phones and tablets

If you live near affected areas, you can make your yard less attractive to Burmese pythons by removing excess debris and maintaining landscaping.



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

It is illegal to release any animal into the wild that is not native to Florida!

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Burmese Pythons in Florida



Pat Lynch, SFWMD

Help Stop the Spread of an Invasive Snake



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

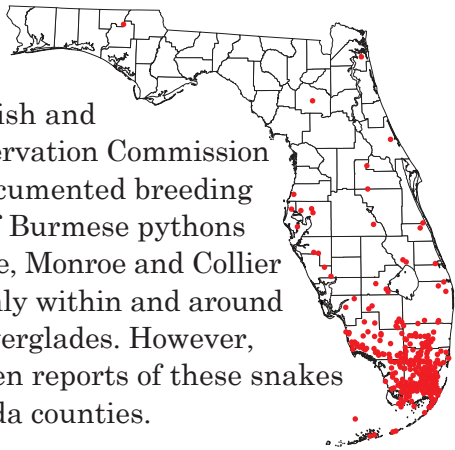
MyFWC.com



Tim Donovan, FWC

What is a Burmese python?

The Burmese python is a large, nonvenomous constrictor snake that has been introduced to Florida. These snakes represent a threat to the ecosystem, including native wildlife. Burmese pythons can reproduce in great numbers and eat a wide variety of food items ranging from eggs to small deer. It is believed that Burmese python populations were founded by escaped or released snakes, as early as the 1980s. The Burmese python is native to India, lower China, the Malay Peninsula and some islands of the East Indies.



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has documented breeding populations of Burmese pythons in Miami-Dade, Monroe and Collier counties, mainly within and around the Florida Everglades. However, there have been reports of these snakes in other Florida counties.

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

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 like puzzle pieces. Burmese pythons have a dark arrowhead shape on top of their head and a dark wedge behind the eye.

Native snakes are important to the ecosystem and should be left unmolested if seen in the wild.



What you can do

The FWC works with other agencies and organizations to remove Burmese pythons and contain the spread of the species. The FWC also asks people to report sightings to the Exotic Species Hotline at 888-IveGot1 (888-483-4861), or online at IveGot1.org. The FWC will work to coordinate the removal of verified pythons. If pythons are not reported to the FWC immediately, responders will likely not be able to locate the snake. Reports will also help experts better manage and track the distribution of the species.

Citizens can help be a part of the Burmese python solution through Python Patrol, the Python Removal Program or by hunting pythons. More information on these and other python topics is available online at MyFWC.com/Python.

Be aware

While the overall threat to people from Burmese pythons is small, the general public should exercise caution handling and/or hunting this snake because of its strength and size.

Attacks on domestic pets are also rare. However, like any wild animal, a python is likely to defend itself if aggravated or threatened. People living close to natural areas need to be aware of wildlife and exercise caution and common sense.

Some common native snakes that are confused with Burmese pythons:



Corn snake



Brown water snake, © Edward Mercer