

The Burmese Python's head is marked with a dark arrowhead, fading toward the snout, with a light line down the center. There are dark and light wedge-shaped marks under each eye.

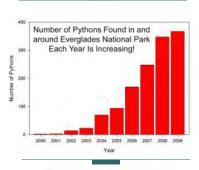




The Burmese Python's body is tan, with large, dark brown "giraffe spots" down the back and sides. The dark spots on the back usually do not connect.



Juvenile Burmese Pythons look nearly identical to adults.





## FLORIDA INVADER: Burmese Python

Report sightings: 1-888-Ive-Got1 www.IveGot1.org



The Burmese Python (*Python molurus*), native to Southeast Asia, is now established and breeding in Florida and Puerto Rico. This is a large, nocturnal predator that may grow to more than 20 feet long and kills its prey by constriction. In Florida, Burmese Pythons are known to prey on more than 20 species of native mammals, birds, and reptiles, including imperiled species such as Wood Storks, Key Largo Woodrats, Limpkins, and White Ibises. Their prey includes large species such as White-tailed Deer, American Alligators, and Bobcats, and it is feared that threatened and endangered species such as Mangrove Fox Squirrels or even Florida Panthers could also be at risk. Burmese Pythons inhabit a wide variety of marshy lowland and drier upland habitats and can travel more than 40 miles in a season. Females can breed at four years of age and lay up to 100 eggs (usually 1-3 dozen). Lifespan is 15-25 years. Although Burmese Pythons generally shy away from humans, these large constrictors do pose a potential threat to humans, especially if they are handled or harassed.

This project was made possible in part by a grant from the South Florida National Parks Trust and the Ferris Greeney Family Foundation, and by the USDA-RREA. Photos/Illustrations by: USGS, Monica McGarrity (UF), Patrick Lynch (SFWMD), Lori Oberhofer (NPS), and Skip Snow (NPS). This document is UF/IFAS Publication Number WEC288, first published September 2010.

## **Authors:**

Steve A. Johnson<sup>1,2</sup> and Monica E. McGarrity<sup>1</sup>

## **Footnote**

1. This document is WEC288, one of a series of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. First published September 2010. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <a href="http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu">http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu</a>.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For more information on UF/IFAS Extension, visit <a href="http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu">http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu</a>. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Millie Ferrer-Chancy, Interim Dean.

## **Copyright Information**

This document is copyrighted by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) for the people of the State of Florida. UF/IFAS retains all rights under all conventions, but permits free reproduction by all agents and offices of the Cooperative Extension Service and the people of the State of Florida. Permission is granted to others to use these materials in part or in full for educational purposes, provided that full credit is given to UF/IFAS, citing the publication, its source, and date of publication.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>University of Florida, Gulf Coast REC, Plant City, FL

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> University of Florida, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Gainesville, FL