

Burmese Pythons in Florida

Help Stop the Spread of this Invasive Species



Pat Lynch, SFWMD

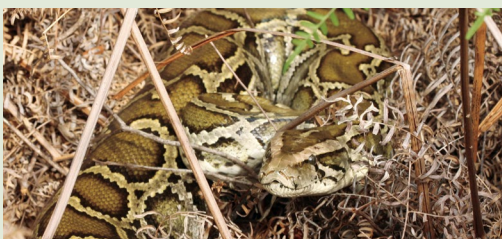


What is a Burmese python?

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:



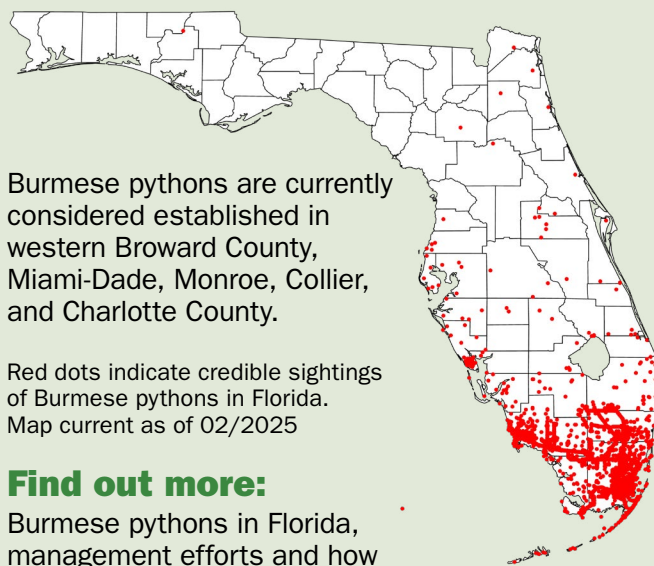
Corn snake



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 approximately 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 are a Prohibited species and can no longer be acquired as personal pets.
- Federal law prohibits transport across state lines or import into the country without a federal permit.



Burmese pythons are currently considered established in western Broward County, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Collier, and Charlotte County.

Red dots indicate credible sightings of Burmese pythons in Florida. Map current as of 02/2025

Find out more:

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

If you see a python:

- Remove it: Pythons can be humanely killed on private lands with landowner permission.
- Pythons can be humanely killed on 32 Commission-managed lands year-round, no permit or hunting license required.
- If you are unable to remove the python, take a photo, note your location and report it. Learn more:

How to report a sighting:

1. Call the Invasive 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.