

# SNAKE IDENTIFICATION



at the  
**Orange County / University of Florida  
IFAS Extension Education Center**  
6021 S. Conway Road  
Orlando, FL 32812  
407-254-9200

Snake Identification is one of the many resources available to citizens at the new Orange County / University of Florida IFAS Extension Education Center.

Our resident Animal Science Agent, Dennis Mudge, will identify snakes at no charge to the public, including juvenile snakes which are difficult to identify.

For further information online visit  
<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/herpetology/>



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Living Safe  
with Snakes in  
Central Florida

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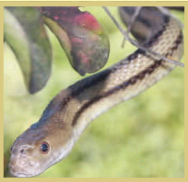
## Snakes live in all terrestrial habitats in Florida.

Where small animals and insects abound in Florida their predator, snakes, also live.

Florida's weather makes an excellent home for snakes. They play an important role keeping those populations under control. Here are some ways they help:



**Ringneck Snake**  
Termite control.



**Rat Corn Snake**  
Rodent control.



**Garter Snake**  
Rodent control.



**King Snake**  
Venomous snake control.



**Black Racer**  
Rodent control.

### Why they pose no threat to you.

Because they swallow their prey whole. You are much too big for them. They don't even have fangs!

## SNAKE CONTROL!

Serious activity in your yard is the only method that really works.

- ◆ Lawn mowing
- ◆ Exercising pets
- ◆ Ball games
- ◆ Picnics
- ◆ Weed eating
- ◆ Car motors
- ◆ And anything that keeps your yard active.

### Additional Help

- ◆ Replace dark colored mulch
- ◆ Clean up litter and clutter
- ◆ Eliminate the prey snakes eat
- ◆ Clean up brush exposing wide open areas

### Key Help

Leave the "big Black Racer snake" that lives in your yard alone! It will likely be afraid of you and it will drive away all of the other snakes.

## Did You Know?

- ◆ All snakes are deaf, so loud noise doesn't help.
- ◆ They are very sensitive to ground vibrations.
- ◆ All snakes cannot smell, so mothballs don't work.
- ◆ Snakes taste the air when they want to smell and they touch their tongues to their Jacobson organ on the roof of their mouth.
- ◆ Snakes have the ability of surviving without food for many days at a stretch after having a filling meal. This is because they have a slow rate of metabolism. In fact, the King Cobra, for example, can go for months without food
- ◆ Snakes have more than 200 teeth, which they do not use to chew, since they point backwards, but bite and grip their prey securely.
- ◆ Snakes are excellent hunters.
- ◆ Some snakes hunt at night and some during the day.

Learn to identify venomous snakes because if you kill snakes, they will likely come to your yard to replace the ones you killed!