

# The Snakes of Wisconsin

## BLUE RACER or YELLOW-BELLIED SNAKE:

Smooth and bluish with a yellow belly. 36-72". Very fast & aggressive. Southwestern & extreme Northwest Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

## BROWN or DeKAY'S SNAKE:

Tan with 2 parallel rows of tiny dark spots down back. 8-15". Most common in Southern 3/4 of Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

## CHICAGO GARTER SNAKE:

Dark brown to black with yellow/gray stripes & gray-green belly. Small to medium size. Extreme Southeastern Wisconsin. Non-venomous.



## EASTERN GARTER SNAKE:

The most common snake found throughout Wisconsin. 17-30". Non-venomous.

## EASTERN HOGNOSE SNAKE:

Usually brown with large round brown spots. 20-35". Heavysset with upturned nose. Southern, Central, Northeast & Northwest Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

## EASTERN MILK SNAKE:

Generally tan or gray with maroon/red blotches with black borders. 24-36". Small yellow triangle or "y" behind head. Southern 2/3 of Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

## EASTERN PLAINS GARTER:

Side stripes on 3rd & 4th row of scales. 20-28". Black bars on upper lip. Southern 1/2 of Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

## NORTHERN RED-BELLIED SNAKE:

Brown/gray with bright red or orange belly. 8-10". Statewide. Non-venomous.

NORTHERN WATER SNAKE:

Front 1/3 has dark brown bands, rear 2/3 has blotches. 24-40". Shiny brown head. Statewide, especially Southern 1/2 of state. Non-venomous.

SMOOTH GREEN SNAKE:

Bright green with white/yellow belly. 14-20". Statewide, but rare in Southern Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

WESTERN FOX SNAKE:

Yellowish with large dark side blotches. 36-56". Adult head is copper color. Statewide. Non-venomous.

**~SPECIAL CONCERN SPECIES~**

BLACK RAT SNAKE:

Glossy black with white throat & chin. 40-72". Aggressive. Southwestern Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

BULLSNAKE:

Front & back 1/3rds have black blotches. 50-80". Middle is brown. Base color is cream/tan. Hisses loudly. Western Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

BUTLER'S GARTER SNAKE:

Small with broad head. 10-15". Proposed as "threatened". Southeastern Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

NORTHERN RINGNECK:

Smooth, gray with yellow/orange collar on neck. 10-15". Bright yellow belly. Northern & Eastern Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

PRAIRIE RINGNECK:

Smooth, gray with yellow/orange collar on neck. 12-14". Yellow belly with black speckles. Extreme Southwestern Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

TIMBER RATTLE SNAKE:

Protected wild animal. Yellow/rust-orange with narrow dark bands, black tail. Yellow/tan head. Tan rattles. 36-56". Normally not aggressive. Primarily along Wisconsin & Mississippi rivers. Venomous.

WESTERN WORM SNAKE:

Black/purple with pink-reddish belly. Up to 11". Extreme Southwestern Grant county. Non-venomous.

## ~ ENDANGERED SPECIES ~

### EASTERN MASSASUAGA RATTLE SNAKE:

Background color is tan/gray with large, brown-black blotches. 20-32". Thick bodied. Wisconsin's most endangered reptile. Central & Western Wisconsin. Venomous, but rarely seen.

### NORTHERN RIBBON SNAKE:

Very slender. 18-36". Eastern Wisconsin & limited South-Central. Non-venomous.

### QUEEN SNAKE:

Light brown with pale length-wise stripes. 15-24". Extreme Southeastern Wisconsin. Non-venomous.

### WESTERN RIBBON SNAKE:

Greenish-white stripes. 20-30". Very slender. Limited Eastern & Western Wisconsin. Non-venomous.