

Cockroach



UGA1233109

GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

COCKROACH

SUPERFAMILY: Blattodea

ORDER: Coleoptera

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/3 - 2 1/3 inches long
- ◆ body oval and flattened
- ◆ brown or black and waxy on hardened forewings
- ◆ long, thin and very mobile antennae
- ◆ thin legs; fast runners



Where to Look:

Roaches like warmth and moisture. They can be found just about anywhere including our homes where they hide in dark places during the day and come out at night.

Who Eats It?

Roaches are eaten by parasitic wasps as well as many different vertebrates including birds and rodents.



LIFE CYCLE

INCOMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

Most cockroaches lay eggs in hardened capsules called ootheca which they either hide or carry with them. Young are born white and wingless but quickly darken and look like small adults.

What It Eats.

In the wild, cockroaches are primarily scavengers of decaying animal and plant matter. In our homes, they eat everything from paper and glue to food scraps and crumbs.

Role in the Ecosystem

Cockroaches are important recyclers.



Did You Know

There are more than 3500 species of cockroaches. They are among the most primitive of the winged insects, appearing about 350 million years ago.