

Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

EASTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ average 4-7 feet long; heavy-bodied
- ◆ boldly patterned with dark diamond shapes edged with creamy-white along the back; well-camouflaged
- ◆ large rattle at the tip of the tail



Where to Look

Rattlesnakes inhabit grassy habitat under the canopy of Longleaf, Shortleaf and Loblolly pine. They are also found in abandoned fields and lots.

What It Eats.

Rattlesnakes feed on rats, mice, squirrels and rabbits. They detect prey with heat-sensors on the side of the head. They sit quietly and wait for the prey to pass by, then strike quickly and inject venom.



Life Cycle

The female rattlesnake gives birth to 6-20 live young underground in late summer to early fall. The newborn snakes are about 15 inches long and are venomous at birth.

Who Eats It?

Rattlesnakes are preyed upon by hawks, owls, eastern indigo snakes and king snakes. Habitat destruction however is the biggest threat to the Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake.

Role in the Ecosystem

Rattlesnakes are an important part of the food chain. They help control rodent populations as well as providing food for raptors and other snakes.



Did You Know...

The Eastern Diamondback is not aggressive and will only bite a human in defense. The bite is extremely dangerous and potentially deadly. It is the largest venomous snake in North America.