

Firefly



photo by Giff Beaton



UGA0014080

GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

FIREFLY

FAMILY: Lampyridae

ORDER: Coleoptera

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/4 - 3/4 inches long
- ◆ wing covers (elytra) brown or black
- ◆ tip of abdomen glows at night; larvae also glow and are sometimes called glowworms



Where to Look:

Fireflies are most common in the spring or early summer. They are seen in yards and moist woods at night. In the day they can be found on leaves and branches and under logs.

Who Eats It?

Firefly beetles and their larvae are eaten by hummingbirds, bats, frogs, toads, spiders and centipedes.



LIFE CYCLE

COMPLETE
METAMORPHOSIS

Adult female deposits eggs in damp soil where they overwinter and pupate. Adults emerge in the spring.

What It Eats.

Fireflies are predators and will eat worms, slugs, snails, and insect larvae. Some species eat plants and some adults don't eat at all.

Role in the Ecosystem

As predators, fireflies play an important role in controlling populations of insects and other invertebrates.



Did You Know

Firefly beetles "light up" because they have a chemical in their abdomen called luciferin. They can turn their lights on and off with a specific rhythm that attracts a mate. The rhythm varies between species.