

Five-lined Skink



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST

ECO-SERVICE CARDS

FIVE-LINED SKINK

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ large body, short legs, streamlined body
- ◆ five distinct white to yellow stripes running length of body
- ◆ blue tail



Where to Look

Five-lined skinks are ground-dwelling animals. They prefer moist, partially wooded habitat that provides ample cover as well as sites to bask in the sun.

What It Eats.

Five-lined skinks prey on a wide variety of insects, spiders, and other invertebrates.



Life Cycle

Female five-lined skinks lay clutches of several eggs in moist soil or rotten logs during the summer and attend the eggs until they hatch about 60 days later. Males heads turn bright red during mating season.

Who Eats It?

Common predators include raccoons, red foxes, Virginia opossums, snakes, raptors, and domestic cats.



Did You Know...

The young of five-lined skinks are widely referred to as "scorpions" and are believed to have a venomous sting. This belief is false, some scientists think that these skinks are bad-tasting to predators.

Role in the Ecosystem

Skinks have an important role in the Food Department keeping the balance of insects in check.