

Eastern Garter Snake

Eastern Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis*) - Pl.11

Identification: 18" - 51 5/8". The Eastern Garter Snake typically has three stripes: one on the back and one on each side. The side stripes are on scale rows two and three (counting up from the ventral scales). Ground color varies from olive to brown to black; stripes are usually yellow, but may be greenish, brownish, or bluish. Stripes are occasionally absent. There is often a black or reddish checkered spot pattern between stripes. There is a row of indistinct black spots on each side of the pale yellow to pale green underside. Scales are keeled; anal plate is single.

Where to find them: One of New Jersey's more common snakes. Can be found in a wide range of habitats. Frequently occurs near water, but also in woods, fields and suburban neighborhoods.

When to find them: Active April through September.

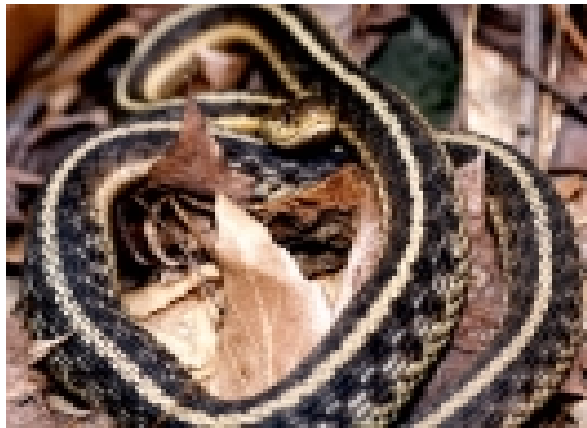
Range: Entire state.

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Key Features

- Lateral stripes that are yellow, brown, or greenish.
- Belly green or yellow with two rows of black spots.
- Scales keeled.



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Excerpt from: "Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of New Jersey"
Order the complete guide at - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/products.htm>