Lizards in the Landscape

Today on Gardening in a Minute: lizards in the landscape.

Anyone who spends time outdoors in Florida has seen them. Brown or green, resting or running, lizards are everywhere.

The most common native species is the green anole, which is usually bright green. Not surprisingly, the similar-looking brown lizards are called brown anoles, and they’re a Cuban cousin of the green ones.

Both of these reptiles are three to eight inches long, and have a dewlap, or throat fan. Males display the red and yellow appendage when courting a female or defending territory, often with a series of amusing head bobs and push-ups.

Lizards are beneficial, eating insects that can feed on us and our plants. And they serve, in turn, as food for wild critters, so if possible, keep your pets from killing them.

For more information about lizards and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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