Common Garden Snakes

Today on Gardening in a Minute: common garden snakes.

The snakes typically found in the Florida landscape tend to be harmless to humans, and actually eat many animals we consider pests.

For example, rodents make up a large part of the rat snake’s diet.

The Southern black racer is a slender gray or black snake that can grow up to four or five feet long. Black racers will eat other snakes, lizards, frogs, rodents, and insects.

The Southern ring-necked snake is also a skinny, gray-black snake, but is rarely larger than twelve inches. These snakes like to eat earthworms and slugs.

Other frequently seen non-poisonous snakes include the Eastern garter snake, the rough green snake, and the banded water snake.

Snakes in the garden can be a sign of a healthy ecosystem, so welcome these creatures to your yard.

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

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.