

# Burmese pythons and native look-alikes

Remember, native snakes play an interesting and vital role in Florida's complex ecology.

## Burmese Python



**NONNATIVE**

- Dark arrowhead on top of head
- Light line in arrow
- Dark wedges behind and below eye



### Burmese Python Characteristics:

- Smooth-scaled (shiny)
- Heavy bodied
- Dark, irregular blotches along back and sides
- Giraffe-like pattern
- Cream colored underside

## Corn Snake



**NATIVE**

- Black edges lines form V on head
- Rounded pupils



### Corn Snake Characteristics:

- Smooth-scaled (shiny)
- Alternating reddish, black bordered blotches on back and sides
- Black and white checkerboard pattern on underside

## Brown Water Snake



**NATIVE**

- Minimal pattern on head
- Rounded pupils



### Brown Water Snake Characteristics:

- Keeled scales (dull in appearance)
- Heavy bodied
- Alternating dark, squarish blotches along back and sides

All photos courtesy of Robin Bijlani, University of Florida