

Nonnative Species: Egyptian Geese



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General Information

Egyptian geese are native to much of Africa. First observed in Florida in the 1960s, these large and distinctively patterned birds are now among the most common nonnative waterfowl species in south Florida. Egyptian geese are popular as ornamental pets and wild populations have become established in Florida in areas where they escaped or were illegally released.

Egyptian geese typically eat seeds, leaves, grasses, grains and insects. They may nest in a wide variety of places, including on the ground or in tree cavities. While breeding pairs typically defend a territory, outside of the breeding season they may occur in large flocks, especially in areas where people feed them. As a result, conflicts can arise between people who enjoy the birds and those who consider them a nuisance due to their droppings and noisy behavior. Large flocks contribute to degraded water quality and nutrient buildup in small ponds, as well as messy sidewalks and driveways. Egyptian geese can spread diseases to native wildlife and create competition for resources such as food and habitat.



Photo by FWC

What can you do to prevent problems with Egyptian geese?

- Never feed Egyptian geese, either by direct handout or by placing food in accessible locations. Feeding encourages the birds to linger, potentially creating overcrowding that leads to messy conditions.
- Haze Egyptian geese away from your property with a water hose or loud, startling noises such as whistles or airhorns. Create an unwelcoming atmosphere for the birds on your property.
- Set up a motion-activated sprinkler or alarm device that will scare Egyptian geese away in areas where the birds are a nuisance. These devices can help deter the birds from your property when you are absent.



Photo by FWC



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Regulatory status

Egyptian geese, like all nonnative species, are not protected in Florida except by anti-cruelty law [Florida Statute § 828.12](#). They can be captured and humanely killed on private property at any time with landowner permission. Their nests and eggs may also legally be removed and destroyed. It is illegal to release or relocate captured nonnative species in Florida per [Florida Administrative Code 68-5.001](#).

Options to remove Egyptian geese

Nonnative birds can impact Florida's economy and natural ecology. Removal of nonnative species can benefit native wildlife and reduce conflicts with people. If caught in traps, Egyptian geese cannot be relocated and must be kept in captivity or humanely killed.

- Egyptian geese can be removed using any method not in violation of anti-cruelty laws. They can be live captured, typically with nets or cage traps. All traps must be checked at least once every 24 hours. Captured non-target species are required to be released on site.

- Egyptian geese can be taken by use of a firearm on private property during daylight hours with landowner permission. Please check with your local sheriff's office or police department for firearm ordinances before discharging firearms.
- The FWC recommends hiring a nuisance wildlife control operator for interested property owners who may find it difficult to perform trapping or humane removal on their own. A list of trappers can be found at: [MyFWC.com/Trappers](#).



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Burmese python

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3. Report your sighting

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Knowing the distribution of nonnative species in Florida helps wildlife biologists plan more effective management strategies.

[MyFWC.com/Nonnatives](#)



Argentine black and white tegu



Capybara

