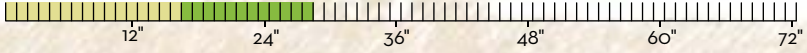
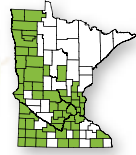


PLAINS GARTERSNAKE

(*Thamnophis radix*)



- Status:** Not listed
- Size:** 16 - 28 inches
- Active season:** Mid April through November
- Scales:** Keeled, single anal plate
- Description:** Medium-sized, striped snake with a dark brown to black dorsal color and three light-colored dorsal stripes. The mid-dorsal stripe is typically bright yellow, while the lateral stripes are pale yellow often with a greenish or bluish tint to them. These lateral stripes occur on the third and fourth scale rows. Two rows of alternating dark spots above the lateral stripes and one below can be seen if the snake's background color is not too dark. The greenish upper lip is marked with bold, black vertical bars. The belly is pale yellow to pale green or gray with black spots on the outer edge of the belly scales.
- Diet:** Frogs, toads, tadpoles, earthworms, insects and fish
- Habitat:** Prefer moist open grasslands and prairies, savannas, and open areas around ponds, marshes and streams in grassland areas. They overwinter below the frost line, often with other snake species, in mammal burrows, deserted ant mounds, building foundations, and old wells.
- Hunting:** Active forager
- Reproduction:** Livebearer, average litter size is 10 - 20 young, but can vary greatly
- Other name(s):** Grass Snake, Garden Snake
- Notes:** The Plains Gartersnake looks very similar to the Common Garter and Lined Snakes. The Common Gartersnake does not have any markings on its lip and the Lined Snake has a double row of half-moon spots on its belly.



Barney Oldfield

Plains Gartersnake.



MINDNR-Erica Hoaglund

Plains Gartersnake's upper lip is marked with bold, vertical black bars.

Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. 2010. [Snakes and Lizards of Minnesota](#).
Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul, Minnesota. 67 pp.