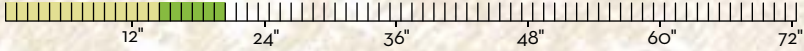
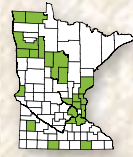


SMOOTH GREENSNAKE

(Opheodrys vernalis)



- Status:** Not listed, Species in Greatest Conservation Need
- Size:** 14 - 20 inches
- Active season:** Mid April through September
- Scales:** Unkeeled, divided anal plate
- Description:** Bright green, solid dorsal color with a white or pale yellow belly. Some light brown specimens have been found. This snake is very slender. Hatchlings are solid olive green.
- Diet:** Grubs, worms, insects - especially caterpillars, spiders, and grasshoppers
- Habitat:** Found in prairies, meadows, savannas, and woodland and marsh edges. They overwinter below the frost line, often with other snake species in ant mounds and other structures.
- Hunting:** Active forager
- Reproduction:** Egg layer, clutch size is 2 - 18 eggs, with an average of 7
- Other name(s):** Grass Snake
- Notes:** This snake loses its bright green coloration upon death, often fading to pale blue. As a result, it may be mistaken for a North American Racer (*Coluber constrictor*). However, Racers of this size are juveniles and have a blotched pattern rather than a solid color.



MNDNR-Carol Hall

Color variation in two Smooth Greensnakes.



MNDNR-Dave Crawford

Cryptic coloration in a Smooth Greensnake.

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.