

Smooth Green Snake *Opheodrys vernalis*

Habitat Preference: Moist native prairies or prairie marshes, hibernate in rock crevices or burrows

Threats:

- Pesticide use
 - This species has an almost exclusive insect diet and are susceptible to insecticide poisoning.
- Loss of habitat
 - Conversion of prairie to cultivated ground.
 - Tree invasion.
 - Invasion of non-native plants.
- Fragmentation
- Tile draining
- Human captivity
 - Due to the snakes diurnal nature they are often encountered by humans who capture them and keep them as pets.
 - This species does very poorly in captivity.



Habitat Improvement Guidelines:

- Limit insecticide use in areas known to have populations of smooth green snake.
- Establish new areas of native prairie habitat. These new areas will create more habitat while defragmenting existing habitat
- Remove trees beginning to encroach on native prairie areas.
- Remove tile from tile drained areas to recreate wet prairie.
- Cease all human collection of smooth green snakes.
 - Remember: smooth green snakes are of special concern in Iowa and therefore it is illegal to take one of these snakes as a pet.