

Help Protect Eastern Box Turtles

Leave them in the Wild!

Identifying an Eastern Box Turtle



Eastern box turtles have a dome shaped carapace and many will have bright yellow to orange irregular patterns on top of their shell.

The plastron of eastern box turtles may be yellow to dark brown or black. They may sometimes be a mixture of these colors with an irregular pattern.

How You Can Help

- If **mowing** during the active season of the eastern box turtle, raise your mower blades >7 inches.
- **Assist turtles across the road.** When it is safe to do so, move turtles across the road in the direction they were headed.
- If you find a **severely injured** turtle, contact a local wildlife rehabber by visiting: <https://ahnow.org/>
- **Don't share location information** online about the turtles you see. Poachers may use this information to find sites for collecting turtles
- **Report Suspicious Activity.** If you suspect someone is involved in the illegal collection of wild turtles, report it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's tip line (**1-800-FWS-TIPS**)

Keep Eastern Box Turtles Wild

Despite eastern box turtles reaching sexual maturity around age 10-13 in the northeast, it may take them decades to produce an offspring that survives to adulthood. If a turtle is collected from the wild, it cannot contribute to future generations. Wild turtles kept in captivity often become sick and die prematurely. Collecting turtles is not only unethical but also prohibited by law in most states.

To Learn More About the Turtles in Your State and Their Regulations, Visit:

Active Period in the Northeast

