

WHAT THE HECK! GECKOS? YOU BET!©

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida – April 16, 2024

Who in the state of Florida has not seen Geckos scurrying about around their houses, pool decks, and just about everywhere!? They are interesting little creatures for sure. In Florida there are 12 different species of Geckos, 11 of which are considered to be “invasive”. Only the Reef Gecko is native to Florida.



HERE ARE A FEW GECKO FACTS AS GATHERED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES:

- Many people do not like Geckos at all, apparently because of their “creepy/crawly” nature, but they are completely harmless and will normally take evasive action when they see humans approaching.
- In all, there are 1850 species of Geckos that can be found in the warmer areas of all continents in the world - except Antarctica.
- Although Geckos are often seen during the day time, they are mostly nocturnal and have excellent color-perceiving night vision. They are coniferous and their diet of mosquitos and other insects benefits us all.
- From our frequent observations here in Florida, we know that most of the larger Geckos only measure 6-8 inches long from nose-to-tail. Newly-born Geckos may be an inch or less in length. The largest species of Geckos are found in Southeast Asia and can grow to 14 inches long.
- As a defense mechanism, when stalked by a predator, the Gecko’s tail will fall off and continue to wiggle which tends to detract the predator while the Gecko escapes. After detachment of a tail, it will “re-generate” and rapidly grow back to its original size.
- Geckos have about 100 teeth that are able to be replaced within 3-4 months.

YOU CAN NOW CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE AT LEAST PARTIALLY “GECKOIZED”!