



EXOTIC

Nile Monitor, native to Africa

LIZARDS


Iguanas and other large exotic lizards do not belong in the Florida landscape. Several species of exotic lizards are now established in Sarasota County.

Iguanas eat a combination of plants and insects (including butterflies). They also eat lizards and small animals like nesting birds and their eggs. Monitor lizards are capable of taking fairly large prey, including burrowing owls, small mammals, even young alligators.

These and other invasive exotics disrupt Florida's natural systems, impacting our local environment and economy. They pose a serious threat to protected species like gopher tortoises, Florida scrub-jays and sea turtle hatchlings.

Sarasota County must manage exotic animal species in order to protect native habitats, plants and animals. These efforts include the control of invasive lizard populations on publicly owned lands.

Please call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 to report exotic lizard sightings or to request more information on the county's exotic lizard management program.



Black spiny-tailed iguana, native to Central America