

FACT SHEET

Blue-Spotted Salamander

(*Ambystoma laterale*)



RANGE: Northeast US, parts of Canada, endangered in Connecticut

Blue-spotted salamanders are primarily found in moist, deciduous hardwood forests and swampy woodlands. They prefer vernal pools that retain water into mid-summer, to ensure access to a suitable breeding habitat. Underbrush, leaf litter, rocks, and logs are their shelter.

Populations are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, and increased urbanization. Many are killed by cars during the spring breeding season when they migrate to and from their temporary breeding pools.

Because their life-cycle includes both temporary wetlands and the forest floor, they are an **indicator species**. The health of their population is a sign of the health of the forest. *Protecting the blue-spotted salamander protects the forest, and vice-versa.*

Information from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



What you can do to help the blue-spotted salamander

Salamanders absorb chemicals through their skin, so avoid the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides in your yard. If you need to use these products, purchase ones that are less toxic. Salamanders should never be collected from the wild.

Preserving forest habitat is key to their survival.



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