

# RED-EARED SLIDER

## Invasive Species Alert!

### IMPACTS OF RED-EARED SLIDER

Red-eared Sliders are not native to Ontario. They are often sold as pets and have made their way into the wild through their release when owners no longer wish to care for them. It is important to know Red-eared Sliders...

#### care requirements as pets

While cute as hatchlings, these turtles can grow to 30 cm (1 ft) and live to 30 years of age.

#### compete for food resources

In the wild, Red-eared Sliders outcompete Ontario's eight native turtle species (all designated as species at risk) for food and habitat.

#### spread disease

When introduced to the wild, these pets may bring and spread disease, impacting wildlife populations.



### IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ Dark body with yellow stripes.
- ✓ Red-orange band behind the eye.
- ✓ Olive-dark brown shell with yellow and black stripes.
- ✓ Underside of shell (plastron) is yellowish with dark spots.

### REPORT



SCAN ME



Report Red-eared Slider sightings on-line or through the Toronto Zoo's Ontario Turtle Tally app and/or the EDDMapS app.

find · map · track



SCAN ME

## DO...

- ✓ educate yourself regarding native and non-native species.
- ✓ learn to identify Red-eared Sliders from similar looking species like the Painted Turtle.
- ✓ don't shop. Look into adopting a Red-ear Slider from humane societies or The Little RES Q.

### RED-EARED SLIDER NON-NATIVE



The Red-eared Slider is identified by...

- the red marking behind the eye and
- the multiple black markings found on
- the underside of the shell (plastron).

### MIDLAND PAINTED TURTLE NATIVE



The Midland Painted Turtle is identified by...

- the yellow marking behind the eye and
- the single, central blotch found on the plastron.

## DON'T...

- ✗ release aquatic pets into local creeks, streams, lakes or ponds.
- ✗ purchase a pet without understanding their care requirements.
- ✗ mistake the non-native Red-eared Slider for native look-a-likes, like the Midland Painted Turtle.