

Snakes in the Garden

By: Melinda Sperl

Nothing scares a gardener more than a surprise encounter with a snake and while most of them are non-venomous, I had an encounter with 3 in 30 minutes this Saturday. I have to say that woke me up! My dog barked at what I thought was a bumble bee and while I thought he would just learn his lesson the hard way with a sting, I did not heed his warning and continued to pull the weeds around my patio. Imagine my surprise when there emerged a 2.5 foot coral snake!

While I was proud of my dog for the warning I was worried about him getting bit so I lost sight of the snake while getting him corralled. But, I didn't want to let the snake stay in the yard so we examined every shrub and grass. While looking off my porch in the salvia my husband found a small copperhead and in my daylilies I found another copperhead that went into my grass where my husband almost stepped on it while trying to catch it. They blend so well right now with the leaves you can hardly see the snake while looking straight at it.



Eventually we found the coral snake that started the whole expedition and he was relocated.

I want to remind everyone that snakes went into semi-hibernation during the drought and after the cooler temps, are coming out and are hungry. They need to feed now before the true winter hibernation so they are coming out in numbers not normally seen in our areas. I would like to warn everyone to be very careful before you put your hand in your garden. Put the shovel in first and save the bite.

Happy Gardening!

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