

Firefly Habitat Guide

Keep Some Areas Dark

- ◆ Turn off unnecessary outdoor lights
- ◆ Use warm, shielded lighting when light is needed
- ◆ Close curtains or blinds at night
- ◆ Avoid lighting the whole yard

Keep Some Habitat

- ◆ Keep leaf litter in part of the yard
- ◆ Allow some grass or native plants to grow taller
- ◆ Preserve damp, shaded areas
- ◆ Avoid clearing every fallen branch, log, or natural edge

Reduce Chemical Use

- ◆ Avoid broad-spectrum insecticides
- ◆ Do not treat the whole yard “just in case”
- ◆ Use targeted pest control only when necessary
- ◆ Remember that fireflies spend much of their lives in or near the soil

Support the Food Web

- ◆ Grow native plants
- ◆ Avoid killing every snail, slug, worm, or small insect
- ◆ Provide varied ground cover rather than only clipped lawn
- ◆ Protect moist soil from drying out

Start Small

You do not need to “rewild” the entire property. A darker corner, undisturbed leaves, fewer chemicals, and a little patience can make a difference.



Firefly Observation Guide

When and Where to Look

- ◆ Begin around sunset
- ◆ Check grass, shrubs, woodland edges, and leaf litter
- ◆ Look low as well as overhead
- ◆ Warm, humid evenings are often more active

Watch Without Interfering

- ◆ Turn off white lights
- ◆ Use dim red light only when needed
- ◆ Walk slowly
- ◆ Avoid trampling the area
- ◆ Release captured fireflies where they were found

What to Notice

- ◆ Flash color
- ◆ Number of flashes
- ◆ Time between flashes
- ◆ Flying or perched
- ◆ Height above the ground
- ◆ Whether another firefly responds

Record It

Date: _____ Time of first flash: _____

Location: _____

Temperature/weather: _____

Habitat: _____

Flash pattern: _____

Flying or perched: _____

Approximate number: _____

Notes: _____