



Muscovy Ducks - Quick Reference Sheet¹

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Table 1.

Common Name:		muscovy duck
Other Names:		royal duck, domestic duck
Scientific Name:		<i>Cairina moschata</i>
Appearance:	Size:	about the same size as a large chicken
	Color:	variable patterns of black and white
	Distinguishing features:	large patches of warty, red flesh encircle the eyes and base of the bill in some individuals
Range:		statewide
Habitat:		urban lakes and ponds
Diet:		seeds, fruits, and handouts from people
Reproduction:		nests often made in root tangles at the base of trees, and under yard shrubbery
		primary nesting season is spring but eggs may be laid at any time of the year
Behavior:		native, wild muscovies can be found in South America
		non-native, domestic muscovies were introduced into Florida
Problems:		can transmit diseases and parasites to native ducks
		dig nesting burrows in shrubby areas
		breed with some native duck species
		large numbers cause reduction in water quality
Solutions:		cease all feeding programs
		flock size can be controlled partially by removing some eggs from nests; shake one or two vigorously and return to nest or the hen may lay more eggs

1. This document is WEC-QRS-014, one of a series of the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville 32611. Date first printed: June, 1991 as "Muscovy Ducks". Reviewed: December, 1998. Minor Revision: August, 2001. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

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	Intravenous injection with pentobarbital sodium is a highly effective, and humane lethal technique recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association Panel on Euthanasia (Current federal drug regulations require strict accounting for the barbiturates and, by necessity, these must be used under the supervision of personnel registered with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency.). May be administered by a veterinarian.
Legal Aspects:	relocating and releasing non-native species is illegal
Fact Sheet Available:	yes