

# Ambystoma maculatum

## Spotted Salamander

Native to Maine

Upland  
Vernal Pools and Forests

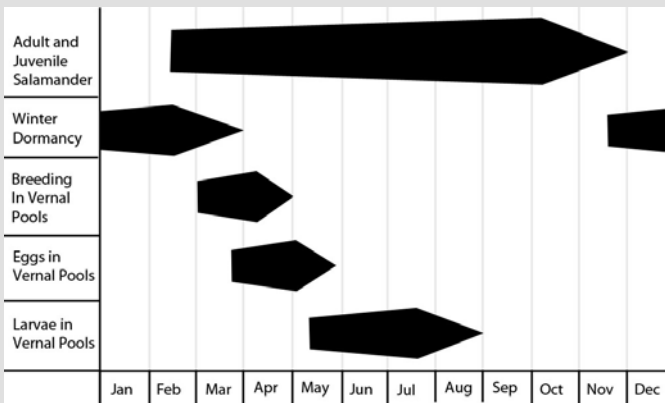
### Body Plan and Shape



Flickr user DaveHuth



A stout 15cm - 25cm long salamander with a rounded snout, broad head and short, strong legs. It has a dark colored body with yellow/orange spots in two wandering rows down the back and a gray belly.



A vernal pool is a temporary body of still water that dries up seasonally.

### Full View



Dan Hocking

PERMITTED USE

Look for a large sized yellow or orange spotted black salamander.

### Life History



Flickr users: brian.gratwicke, aveo.org



The spotted salamander spends its adult life burrowing in the forest floor. It breeds in early spring in vernal pools where the young grow until they leave as metamorphs.

### Seasonal Behaviors



Flickr user rebonnett



In the spring, usually during the first nighttime warm rain, the normally reclusive salamanders come out to breed in vernal pools and may be found in large numbers.

### Similar Species

The Jefferson salamander is similar in appearance and may hybridize with the blue-spotted salamander. Jefferson salamanders have long toes, long snouts and pale bellies and lack yellow spots.

### Did You Know?

Spotted salamanders are thought to have a symbiotic relationship with algae! The algae colonize the egg masses and in return for a safer place to grow, the algae provide oxygen and camouflage to the developing eggs. They are also known to live up to 32 years old in the wild!

Researched by: Caroline Casals and Christine Voyer  
Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.