

## **What Does this Species Look Like?**

**Size:** 1/2 inch

**Color:** Black body with yellow stripes; red, yellow, and black head

**General:** Long, flat bodies and long antennae

**Usually Found:** Gardens, parks, meadows, woodland edges, backyards

## **Did You Know?**

- The firefly (*Photuris pennsylvanica*) is the official insect of Pennsylvania.
- The firefly is also known as the lightning bug. Firefly larvae are called glowworms.
- Fireflies have chemicals in their abdomens that help to produce their yellowish green light.
- Fireflies use their flashing light patterns to attract mates.
- They are helpful at preventing pests in your garden, because they eat slugs, snails, and aphids.
- Fireflies are fun to chase and catch on warm summer nights. If you catch one and keep it in a jar, please don't forget to release it after a little while so it can go back to protecting your garden!

## **What am I Observing?**

The timing (date) of:

- The first time a firefly is seen.

## **Why Collect this Data?**

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this insect is impacted by environmental changes.

## **How Do I Report this Data?**

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:  
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>  
or sent to [phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

## **Want to Find Out More?**

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,  
[phenology@lgnc.org](mailto:phenology@lgnc.org)

**What is Phenology?** According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of "recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds."

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