1342

Messier 3

Quick Facts:

Distance: 34,000 Light-years. **Size: Approx 180 Light-years.**

Constellation: Canes Venatici.

The first Messier object actually found by Charles Messier (1764). A large ball of stars with about 500,000 members. It also has more known variable stars than any other globular cluster. Fully resolved into stars with a 12-inch telescope, smaller scopes show a bright core. Like all Milky Way globulars, it's about 12 billion years old.

Find it: Look for it halfway along the line betwee Arcturus and Cor Caroli. GOTO: M (Messier).

Image by ESA/Hubble/NASA. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.