

Green tree frog

This is Australia's second largest frog, growing to 11cm in length. It's mainly green, with some white spots scattered on the sides.

These frogs are truly amazing in that they eat lots of insects such as cockroaches, grasshoppers and even mice. One frog can help keep pests at bay for about 20 years!

Green tree frogs often live in downpipes, water tanks and troughs. Sometimes they make a sudden appearance when the outside toilet is flushed.



K. Gillett / DECCW

Be a buddy to frogs

Try to:

- listen for frog calls on a still night and discover if you have frogs in your backyard.
- find a frog by using the 'triangle method'. Three people form a triangle around the calling frog, and when the frog calls each person points at the sound. Where the lines intersect is where you'll find the frog.
- plant shrubs and trees and place rocks around ponds.
- leave leaf litter and rocks in gardens.
- place rocks or branches in water so that young frogs can get out easily.
- keep your cat or dog away from known frog areas.
- hang a sack or thick rope at the edge of your swimming pool so frogs can climb back out if they fall in.
- build a frog pond. A pond creates a home for frogs and fish and adds a feature for you to feast your eyes on.
- put a solar powered light in your garden. This will attract bugs, and make an easy meal for frogs.

Avoid:

- using pesticides or chemicals in your garden that could run into water used by frogs.
- taking tadpoles from local creeks – it's illegal.
- letting cats and dogs into an area that is home to frogs.

Don't be surprised if:

- you think you can hear a frog but never find it.
- you see different types of frogs in the one area.
- you see a frog sitting near its eggs.
- you find a frog that looks like a cane toad. Don't kill it! In the past people have mistakenly killed native frogs that look a bit like a cane toads. Contact your local National Park or local wildlife care and rescue organisation.
- you see a green frog one day and a similar looking grey frog the next. Many frogs can change colour to blend in with their environment.

Find out more about your own backyard buddies

VISIT: www.backyardbuddies.net.au
www.facebook.com/backyardbuddies
CALL: 1300 361 967



Be a backyard buddy

Help frogs survive in the concrete jungle



Do you lead a double life? Frogs do!

Frogs are amphibians. They live part of their life cycle underwater, breathing through gills, and part of their life cycle on land, breathing with lungs. 'Amphibian' comes from two Greek words – amphi meaning 'both' and bios meaning 'life'.

Frogs start their lives as eggs laid in water. After a week or so they hatch, as tadpoles, and swim around eating tiny animals, algae and other plant life in the water. Gradually they lose their tails and grow little legs and arms until finally they turn into fully formed frogs. Mature frogs live mostly on land, but love to visit wet, shady areas and shallow water.

Frogs need your help to survive!

By maintaining frog habitats in your backyard, you'll be rewarded with a frog symphony in the spring, summer and autumn months.

Frogs rely on camouflage for protection, some can even change colour to blend into the background. While this sometimes works to avoid natural predators, our pets, particularly cats, are not fooled so easily. So it's a good idea to keep cats inside when you know there are frogs around.

Remember – tadpoles, eat some plant life and other small creatures in the water and can only live in unpolluted water. This means that we need to be extra careful about what kind of chemicals we wash into our waterways (particularly cleaning products, oils and pesticides). A tadpole's survival ultimately means a frog's survival! Frogs are an indicator of a healthy environment.

What is a backyard buddy?

Backyard buddies are the native animals that share our built up areas, our beaches and waterways, our backyards and our parks. Frogs are backyard buddies.

Backyard buddies are also the local people who value the living things around them, like frogs, and are willing to protect and encourage them by doing a few simple things around their own homes.

So you can be a backyard buddy.

Be a backyard buddy

It's easy. All you have to do is care... and take a few simple steps.

Step one is to find out what frogs do and do not like.

Frogs love:

Water

- they spend the early part of their life cycle (eggs and tadpoles) in water. As fully grown frogs some like to sit in or near water.

Shelter

- the skin of frogs is not waterproof, drinking water and oxygen are absorbed through their skin. Therefore a cool moist environment is essential for many frogs so water does not evaporate from their skin in hot, dry weather.

A place to hide

- rocks, leaf litter, mulch, twigs, shrubs, trees, hollow branches and bark provide safety from predators.

Eating garden pests

- mosquitoes, moths, caterpillars, cockroaches and flies are on the menu.

But they don't like:

Cats and dogs

- dogs and especially cats will prey on frogs when the opportunity arises.

Garden chemicals

- chemicals can contaminate frog ponds and destroy the homes of frogs and tadpoles.

Exotic fish

- goldfish, gambusia and other exotic fish are known to eat frog's eggs and attack tadpoles.

Being handled and moved around

- frogs are at risk from diseases caused by the frog chytrid fungus and other infections. A frog is more likely to become infected when under stress. The disease may also be spread when frogs or tadpoles are moved by people from place to place.

Peron's tree frog

Mysterious chuckles from a still pool of water on a warm summer night – that's Peron's tree frog.

This beautiful frog can change its colour in minutes from grey to brown, while retaining small brilliant emerald green spots on its back.

It's usually found calling from tree branches that overhang pools of still water.

Peron's tree frog is recognisable by its distinctive cross shaped pupil.



D. Clyne

Striped marsh frog

The striped marsh frog makes a popping sound.

When there are a couple of frogs it sounds like a tennis match, and if there's a whole gathering of frogs it may sound like someone making popcorn!

A relatively hardy frog, it's found in many different environments.

It's light grey to brown with a series of irregular dark brown stripes. Its egg mass is very obvious as it looks like beaten egg-white with pepper in it.



DECCW

Common eastern froglet

Most frogs in Australia call during the warmer months but this little brown frog calls all year round, making a continual 'crick ... crick ... crick' sound similar to castanets.

These frogs are found in all types of environments along the east coast of Australia, from rainforests to woodlands, and snowy mountain rivers to coastal creeks.

They love eating insects and often breed in shallow drains.



M. Mahony