



All about

Frogs and Toads

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Frog and Toad Ponds

Introduction

As industrial development continues to spread throughout the United States, the natural habitat of frogs and toads has been replaced with residential homes, which has led to a decline in the frog population. But today there are a few people who are concerned about frogs and toads and their breeding grounds. This eBook will assist you in setting up and maintaining an area for frogs and toads and including them as a welcome addition to your garden pond.

General Description

Frogs live in many places, including many suburban backyards and ponds. Combined with vegetation and a moist environment, ponds provide an excellent breeding ground for frogs and add variety to the animal life. Homemade ponds can be as elaborate or simple as an old bathtub, clay garden pot or garden pond. The pond should have enough room for frogs to move, hop, crawl or sit. In most ponds, hollow logs, stick or rocks provide a hiding place and a great food supply of crickets.

Selecting Your Frogs and Toads

Due to the variety of frogs and toads, selection may be based on their physical characteristics, including body proportions, color patterns, toe webbing, and skin structures. Toads are different from frogs in that they have rough, warty skin and short legs. Depending on the species, frogs may live 2 to 40 years with an average age ranging from 4 to 15 years. Finally, when selecting a frog or toad, it is important to realize that some may be poisonous and care must be taken to ensure safety of the pond, environment and owner.

A Few Words about Breeders

Although frogs may be easily accessible, frog breeders should be able to provide information concerning a suitable habitat for your frogs and toads. When purchasing frogs or toads from breeders, information should be provided about feeding, hibernation, reproduction, care and sexuality.

A Few Words about Pet Stores

Pet stores are a great resource for amphibious animals. Usually, pet stores may have your common garden-variety frog or toad. If you are looking for a particular breed, you may be limited to the selection that is at hand at the store. If you are on a tight budget, pet stores will probably have what you want.



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How to Choose Your Frog and Toad Ponds

The environment in most backyards is conducive to frog and toad ponds, making them a lot easier to construct. When selecting the type of pond to construct, issues such as safety, accessibility, fluctuating water levels, size, surface structure, food supply and a balance between plant and animal should be considered. It is important to remember that the objective for creating the frog and toad pond is to make it as healthy and natural as possible for them to be able to establish themselves in their habitat, grow and breed.

Some pond owners may choose to convert a preexisting garden pond into a frog or toad pond. These types of ponds can be constructed very easily and inexpensively. Some nurseries sell prepackaged boxes made out of fiberglass that can be used. Pond predators not only attack the fish; they may try and eat the frogs and toads as well. When choosing a pond, remember that the depth of the pond may serve as a deterrent to these predators.

Setting Up Your Pond

Amphibians such as frogs and toads are attracted to ponds by the size of its reflective surface. If the pond surface is too small, less than 3 x 2 meters, the pond may not get noticed. Smaller ponds have greater temperature fluctuations, thus frogs and toads may take longer to become settled and balanced.

There must be enough bacteria and algae on the rocks and the bottom of the pond to feed tadpoles. Also, an adequate supply of aquatic insect production must be available to feed the adult frogs or toads. Due to the possible presence of pond predators such as crows, garter snakes and raccoons, it is important to remember that the pond must be constructed in a manner that will prevent access by **these** predators. Most amphibians will rest along the edges of a pond but will retreat to deeper water when frightened. This pond must have a sloping surface so the mature frogs can get out. Issues such as safety should be addressed not only from predators, but also from small children. Fencing may be needed.

Most fish species are not compatible with frogs and toads, because the fish will compete with the frogs for oxygen and will eat the eggs and tadpoles. If you decide to convert an established garden pond, remove the fish, drain the water and let the pond dry to ensure no fish eggs remain.

Maintaining Your Pond

Make sure that the pond does not receive more than one to two hours of sunlight per day for optimum tadpole development. Ample vegetation must be maintained to provide shelter and perching for the various sizes of frogs and toads. Make sure that insecticides are not used near the pond. Light a spotlight on the yard at night to encourage insects. In this type of pond, you will need to minimize soil in the pond. Due to the fact that contagious diseases may occur during certain times of the year, constructing a pond with an easy to use drainage system that can be emptied into a toilet or sink is essential.



You'll need these basics for your Frog and Toad Pond. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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Care and Feeding

It is important to know that predators may harm the frogs or toads. It is recommended to guard the pond from dogs and cats, or other known predators. Some frogs and toads are poisonous and can kill an entire pond of fish and other amphibians. Some birds have been known to eat these poisonous frogs and toads, but may leave body parts in the water. When this happens, you will need to replenish the water and let it sit a few days.

Frog and Toad Fry

Tadpoles will need to be fed until they go through metamorphosis. They can eat prepared fish food. When they turn into frogs, they can eat crickets, wax worms or earthworms. When constructing your pond, tadpoles will need to have something to lie on when going through metamorphosis. Snails should not be placed in a pond due to the fact that they carry a larva stage of flatworm, which attacks tadpoles. When purchasing tadpoles from a pet store, make sure that snails are not in any container housing the frogs or toads. Algae or aquatic vegetation should be made available for them to eat. Frozen lettuce and spinach are staples for tadpoles. As the tadpoles develop legs, fish food can be given to them. But remember to not overfeed them. It is recommended that feeding should only be twice a week. After about twelve weeks, tadpoles will be ready to leave the water. When tadpoles start to hang vertically from the surface of the water, this is a sure sign that there is not enough oxygen in the pond. A pump or aerator will be needed to add oxygen to the water.

Frog and Toad Adults

Young frogs will leave the pond in late July or early August. They may eat beetles and caterpillars. Reproduction differs depending on the frog or toad. Some of them may lay eggs in a foam nest on a tree branch. Others may sound out loud noises to seek a mate, go to the pond and squeeze the eggs out of the female. Some tadpoles take two to three years to grow into maturity. It is so important to provide a healthy environment for the frogs and toads. Frogs may eat insects including moths, mosquitoes (and their larvae), cockroaches, snails and flies. Do not use insecticides around your garden pond because this will kill the frog food.

Necessary Items

In order to maintain your frog and toad pond, you will need plant shrubs that provide shelter and protection for them. A variety of insects must be present for food. Clean water is needed that does not contain chemicals or chlorine. Frog and toad ponds do not necessarily need a pump. A light in the garden will attract insects. Some species may need a heater, due to the fact they may not survive in temperatures less than 10°C. Water is very essential to the life of a pond.



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