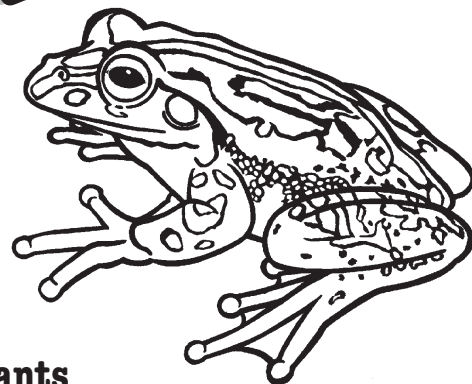


10 steps to...

make a Frog-friendly garden



Research, Research, Research

Find out what frog habitats occur naturally in your community. Visit your local wetland with your family and listen to the frog noises that abound. Maybe you can even find out what frogs already live near your house, and think of ways to attract them to your garden.

Location, Location

Find a place that is suitable for a frog pond or bog in your garden. The perfect location will have some sun and some shade, and be close to a water source so the pond can be topped up with water from time to time. Make sure it is not a busy place as there might be too much activity for frogs.

Think, Design, Build

Having a special habitat in your garden for frogs is an easy thing to do. Make a design for your frog pond and bog. Remember different frogs like different habitats so you need to decide what kind of frogs you want to attract. Not all frogs like deep water.

Baths and Buckets

Find an old bath, plastic tub or sand-tray to use as your frog pond or bog. Even a bucket will work! Dig a hole, place your pond in it and fill it with water.

Rocks and Branches

Hide the edge of the frog bog or pond with rocks, tree branches and logs. This will provide a place for frogs to sit on or hide under. Be sure not to take these things from the bush as they are homes for other animals!

Water Plants

Make sure you have some suitable water plants for the frog pond. Rushes and sedges are local species that grow well in or near water, and are great because they provide shelter for frogs and help to keep the water clean. Many native plant nurseries have a special section for frog-friendly plants.

Plant all Around

Plant some local plant species around the pond and bog area as these will help attract insects. Remember, frogs will come to the habitat if it has a good food source.

No Chemicals

Avoid using fertilisers and other chemicals in your garden as these may harm frogs. Find out about some Earth-friendly alternatives.

A Balanced Ecosystem

The perfect frog habitat will have the right balance of plants and animals. The plants will help filter the water. Tadpoles will feed on the rotting vegetation. Buy some native fish from a pet store to control mosquito larvae, but don't put in goldfish as these will feast on frog eggs.

Be Patient

Put a seat nearby so you can sit and enjoy your frog habitat. It may take a while, but frogs will come to your garden if the conditions are right. Never take tadpoles from another water source or wetland as you may spread diseases like the Chytrid Fungus.

Developed by Perth Zoo and Millennium Kids Inc with students from South Perth Primary School.

Which frogs might I see in my frog-friendly garden?

The species of frog that visit your garden will depend on where you live in Western Australia. The following species are likely to be found in gardens around the Perth metropolitan area:

- Motorbike frog (*Litoria moorei*)
- Slender Tree Frog (*Litoria adelaidensis*)
- Western Banjo Frog (*Limnodynastes dorsali*)
- Quacking Frog (*Crinia Georgiana*)
- Moaning Frog (*Heleioporus eyrie*)
- Squelching Froglet (*Crinia insignifera*)
- Clicking Froglet (*Crinia glauerti*)

Should I build a pond or a bog?

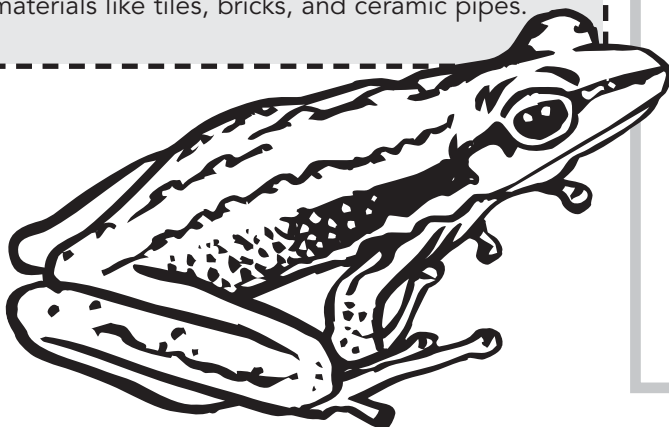
Different frogs like different habitats. The ideal would be to include both a pond and a bog in your frog-friendly garden. A pond will be filled with water and plants and is great for tadpoles and most frog species. A bog is basically a pond that is filled with soil and plants and kept wet all year long, and will provide a great habitat for frogs.

What can I use to make a frog pond or bog?

A pond or bog could be made from just about anything that can hold water like an old bath, trough, sink, paddling pool or even a bucket!

Are there any other useful items I can use in my frog-friendly garden?

Frogs like to hide amongst rocks, logs and leaf litter. If these are not available, you could simulate sheltering places by using recycled materials like tiles, bricks, and ceramic pipes.



What plant species are suitable for my frog-friendly garden?

Where possible, you should aim to include local species of native plants to create your frog-friendly habitat. Visit a nursery that specialises in native plants for advice on suitable species for your area. Aside from the wide range of shrubs and trees available, the following small plants will be a good starting point.

Water plants

- Native Waterlily (*Ottelia ovalifolia*)
- Pale Rushes (*Juncus pallidus*)
- Tassel Sedge (*Carex fascicularis*)

Groundcovers

- Centella (*Centella species*)
- Common Linearis (*Dampiera linearis*)
- Kidney Grass (*Dichondra repens*)

Climbers and Creepers

- Running Postman (*Kennedia prostrata*)
- Native Wisteria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*)
- Old Man's Beard (*Clematis linearifolia*)

What fish species can I put in the pond?

The following native fish species are great for controlling mosquito populations, and are frog and tadpole friendly.

- Western Pygmy Perch (*Edelia vittata*)
- Western Minnow (*Galaxis occidentalis*)
- Swan River Goby (*Pseudogobius olorum*)

You should avoid introduced fish species like Gambusia and Goldfish as they will compete with tadpoles for food, and potentially feed on frog eggs and young tadpoles.