Frogs are amphibians. They spend part of their life in the water and part of their life out of the water. Frogs are carnivores and feed on other animals, mainly insects. Some of the most common tree frogs are the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog, the Dwarf Tree Frog, the Bleating Tree Frog and the Striped Marsh Frog. Of the ground frogs, the most likely to be spotted are the Peron’s Tree Frog. Of the other species found in the Illawarra, the most common tree frogs are the Striped Marsh Frog, the Bleating Tree Frog, the Dwarf Tree Frog, the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog and the Peron’s Tree Frog. Of the ground frogs, the most likely to be spotted are the Peron’s Tree Frog, the Dwarf Tree Frog, the Bleating Tree Frog and the Striped Marsh Frog.

How to identify frogs

Frogs have iridescent skin. To correctly identify a frog, listen to its call and find out what time of year it is calling. Frogs are carnivorous and feed on other animals, mainly insects. Some facts about frogs:

- They spend part of their life in the water and part of their life out of the water.
- Tadpoles have gills like fish and are herbivores meaning they only eat plants.
- Male frogs are smaller than female frogs but their call is much noisier.
- Female frogs lay eggs in the water. Male frogs fertilize the eggs. Tadpoles hatch from the eggs.
- Frogs have pads on their fingers and toes. The other family is known as ground dwellers (Hylidae), which climb and live in the trees. The other family is known as ground dwellers (Hylidae), which climb and live in the trees.
- All frog species lay eggs in the water. Male frogs fertilize the eggs. Tadpoles hatch from the eggs.
- Frogs have pads on their fingers and toes that allow them to absorb pollutants in the water.
- A frog’s skin is very sensitive and will absorb pollutants in the water.
- Frogs are carnivores and feed on other animals, mainly insects.
- Every frog species has a different call.
- Frogs in the water are more noticeable at night than during the day.

Collecting Frogs

Collecting Frogs to frogs, is now a major problem in NSW, and moving Frogs may not take Frogs or Tadpoles from other places and move them without a licence. Frogs also have very specific habitat requirements and even to your yard. A disease caused by Chytrid fungus which is fatal though some species of Frogs may seem widespread on a distribution map, they may only live where a specific soil and vegetation type occur together. If a Frog is moved to an unsuitable habitat it may soon die. Legislation in NSW protects Frogs and Tadpoles by making it against the law to collect or move them and Tadpoles. Frogs are often on the move on rainy nights and within a short period of time they’ll find a new Frog pond and may even use it.

Creating a Frog Friendly Yard

Frogs are carnivorous and feed on other animals, mainly insects. Some facts about Frogs:

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**Frogs of the Illawarra**

This brochure is designed to help you identify different species of frogs that live in your local area and give you some ideas about how you can make your garden frog-friendly. More than thirty frog species have been identified in the Illawarra region. This brochure showcases sixteen species found in the Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama Council areas of the Illawarra, from Helensburgh in the north to Gerroa in the south.

**How to identify frogs**

All the frog species found in the Illawarra fall into one of two family groups. One family are the tree dwellers (Hylidae), which have special pads on their fingers and toes that allow them to climb and live in the trees. The other family is known as ground frogs (Myobatrachidae). They normally don’t climb and don’t have pads on their fingers and toes.

Some of the most common tree dwelling species in the Illawarra are the Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog, the Bleating Tree Frog and Peron’s Tree Frog. Of the ground frogs, the most likely to be spotted are the Striped Marsh Frog and Eastern Froglet. The Striped Marsh Frog is often the first frog to move into a new backyard frog pond.

The colour of a frog’s skin can vary widely between individuals of a certain species. A number of frogs can even change their colour depending on the temperature, time of day or just how they’re feeling!

One of the most accurate ways to correctly identify a frog is by its call. See our website recommendations on the back of this brochure where you can listen to different frog calls.

**Creating a frog friendly yard**

Providing refuge for frogs, particularly in areas where natural settings have been degraded, is an important action that will help ensure common frog species don’t become threatened. Here are some tips to creating a frog friendly habitat in your yard:

- **Location**
  - A north facing sunny location with partial shade provided by trees or small plants in or near the pond is ideal.
  - Place the pond away from large trees that drop a lot of leaves.
  - Frogs can be noisy so locate the pond away from bedrooms and neighbours.
  - Keep your compost heap in the same area to attract insects for the frogs to eat.

- **Design**
  - Consider the safety of small children - make sure the depth does not exceed 30cm. Wire grills (available from building suppliers) can also be used for additional safety.
  - Provide gently sloping sides for frogs to easily get in and out.
  - Provide shelter with native plants and scattered rocks and branches.

**Other tips**

- Many fish species will happily feed on frog’s eggs and tadpoles so it’s best not to introduce fish into your frog pond.
- Avoid using chemicals as frogs are very sensitive to chemicals.

**Collecting Frogs and Tadpoles**

Frogs are often on the move on rainy nights and within a short period of time they’ll find a new frog pond and may even use it to spawn in. So please wait for the frogs to find your ponds, and do not take frogs or tadpoles from other places and move them to your yard. A disease caused by Chytrid fungus which is fatal to frogs, is now a major problem in NSW, and moving frogs may help spread this disease.

Frogs also have very specific habitat requirements and even though some species of frogs may seem widespread on a distribution map, they may only live where a specific soil and vegetation type occur together. If a frog is moved to an unsuitable habitat it may soon die. Legislation in NSW protects frogs and tadpoles so it’s best not to introduce fish into your frog pond and tadpoles by making it against the law to collect or move them without a licence.

**Want more information?**


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**Creating a Frog Friendly Yard**

**LOCATION**

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**DESIGN**

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**OTHER TIPS**

- Many fish species will happily feed on frog’s eggs and tadpoles so it’s best not to introduce fish into your frog pond.
- Avoid using chemicals as frogs are very sensitive to chemicals.
Frogs of the Illawarra

Hyliidae (Tree Frogs)

*Hyliidae* (Tree Frogs)

- **Bleating Tree Frog**
  - *Litoria caerulea* - A well-known species with greyish-blue coloration. Found in trees and shrubs, it is often heard near water sources.
- **Eastern Dwarf Tree Frog**
  - *Litoria gerri* - A small, dark grey frog with a white belly. Found in wetlands and along riverbanks.
- **Green and Golden Bell Frog**
  - *Litoria fallax* - A medium-sized frog with green and golden markings. Found in forests and along streams.
- **Jervis Bay Tree Frog**
  - *Litoria yarrellii* - A medium-sized frog with a dark back and a white belly. Found in wetlands and along streams.
- **Green Tree Frog**
  - *Litoria caerulea* - A blue-grey frog with a yellow underbelly. Found in tree hollows and along streams.
- **Peron’s Tree Frog**
  - *Litoria peronii* - A medium-sized frog with a green back and white belly. Found in forests and along streams.
- **Verreaux’s Tree Frog**
  - *Litoria verreauxii* - A medium-sized frog with a green back and white belly. Found in tree hollows and along streams.
- **Leaf Green Tree Frog**
  - *Litoria fallax* - A small, green frog with a white belly. Found in wetlands and along streams.

Myobatrachidae (Ground Frogs)

- **Bibron’s Toadlet**
  - *Pseudophryne bibronii* - A small, brown frog with a white underside. Found in wetlands and along streams.
- **Eastern Froglet**
  - *Crinia signifera* - A small, brown frog with a white underside. Found in wetlands and along streams.
- **Eastern Banjo Frog / Bobblenook Bullfrog**
  - *Lithobates catesbeianus* - A large, brown bullfrog. Found in wetlands and along streams.
- **Striped Marsh Frog / Brown Striped Frog**
- **Southern Barred Frog / Stuttering Frog**
  - *Mantellina dawsoni* - A small, brown frog with a white underside. Found in wetlands and along streams.
- **Smooth Toadlet**
  - *Litoria fallax* - A small, green frog with a white belly. Found in wetlands and along streams.

Common in the Backyard | Uncommon in the Backyard | Threatened Species