

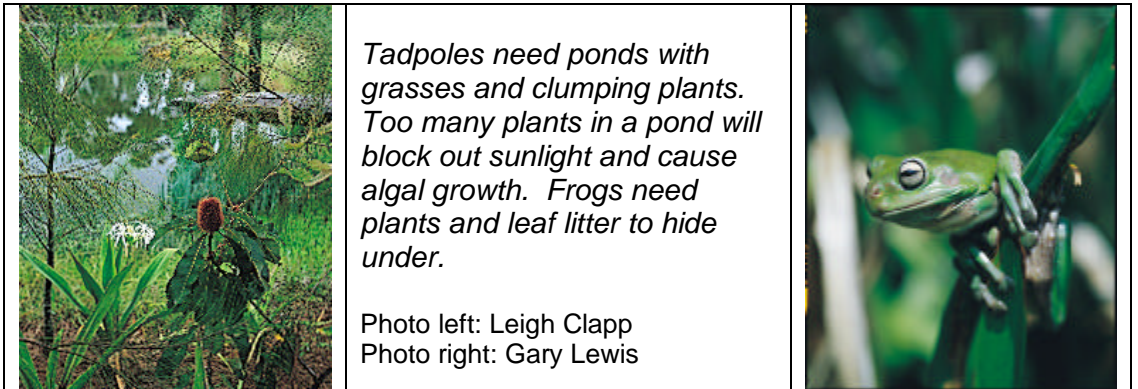


Fact sheet - Creating your Flora for Fauna Garden

Attracting frogs to your Flora for Fauna Garden

Information courtesy: *Gould League*

There are several ways to attract frogs to your garden. A pond with some water plants and grasses around the edge, will attract frogs to lay their eggs. Once the tadpoles have grown, your garden will have more frogs. However, while tadpoles need only water in which to live, frogs have more complex habitat needs and many frogs will even drown in ponds. Frogs do need to live in damp conditions. A damp depression with native grasses (Tussock grasses), ground covers (native violets and Hibbertias) and clumping plants (such as the Grassy Mat Rush and Flax Lillies) is ideal. You could even create a bog full of native grasses and ferns.



A pond can be built with a sheet of thick plastic laid into a depression. If concrete is used, it needs to be coated to stop the lime from leaching into the water. It needs to be no more than 30 cm deep. Water plants need to be planted in the pond to provide food and shelter for tadpoles. Native grasses should be planted around the edge so that when they grow, the leaves drape into the water. This provides a lovely damp canopy for frogs to shelter beneath.

If you want frogs and tadpoles around your garden and pond, never introduce fish into your pond as they will eat the frog eggs. The introduced mosquito fish is causing some frogs to become extinct in our suburbs. Despite its name, this fish is unable to control mosquito larvae (wigglers) effectively as mosquitoes breed so prolifically and not just in ponds (in buckets, old tyres etc.) If you





have mosquito fish in your pond already, please protect frogs and kill the fish. And never release them into local streams

And just another potential problem for frogs and tadpoles...if you place a fountain in your pond, expect the frog eggs and small tadpoles to be vitamised in the pump. Larger tadpoles will probably clog smaller pipes.

Further information:

Attracting Frogs to your Garden, Kevin Casey, published by Kimberley Press

Go to the Flora for Fauna Links page to find further resources and good web sites.

