

Gardens for wildlife

Frog friendly pond

Many gardens already have frog visitors but they need a pond or bog to breed. Tadpoles grow to frogs in water and feed on algae and decaying plant matter, then as frogs they mainly eat insects.

Important

- Do not relocate tadpoles or frogs as it risks spreading disease
- Do not introduce fish or turtles into a pond as they eat frog eggs and tadpoles
- Frogs absorb water and air through their skin so insecticides, heavy metals and herbicides harm them, their soft eggs and tadpoles.
- Create gently sloping pond walls/edges as many frogs cannot climb steep pond walls

Frog ponds should be located in a sunny spot; however shady spots are acceptable. There is no minimum area pond required by frogs, the bigger the pond the better. A series of smaller ponds is also acceptable.

The frog pond should be 50cm+ deep, but shallow ponds are also useful as they dry up in summer killing any predator invasive fish that are threatening your frogs.

Frogs like water, tall native grasses and ground covers and rocks to sun themselves on. Adding these four ingredients will attract frogs. Once you create a frog pond you need to plant a range of local indigenous plants both on the edge of the pond and in the pond. Frogs need plants inside the pond and on the pond's edge to hide from predators

Do not plant deciduous shade trees near the pond as they will block up the pond.



Growing Grass Frog



Emergent plants

A plant which grows in water but which pierces the surface so that it is partially in the air.

Water ribbon (*Triglochin procerum*)*

Cumbungi (*Typha orientalis*)

Tall spikerush (*Eleocharis sphacelata*)

River clubrush (*Schoenoplectus validus*)

Water plaintain (*Alisma plantago-aquatica*)

Mud dock (*Rumex bidens*)

Submergent plants

A plant that is completely beneath the surface of water. Most submergent plants are firmly rooted in the soil.

Common spikerush (*Eleocharis acuta*)

Curly pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

Blunt pondweed (*Potamogeton ochreatus*)

Fennel pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*)

Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*)

Eelgrass (*Vallisneria gigantean*)

Floating plants

A plant that floats on the surface of the water with its roots trailing in the water

Water ribbon (*Triglochin procerum*)*

Floating pondweed (*Potamogeton tricarlinatus*)

Swamp lily (*Ottelia ovifolia*)

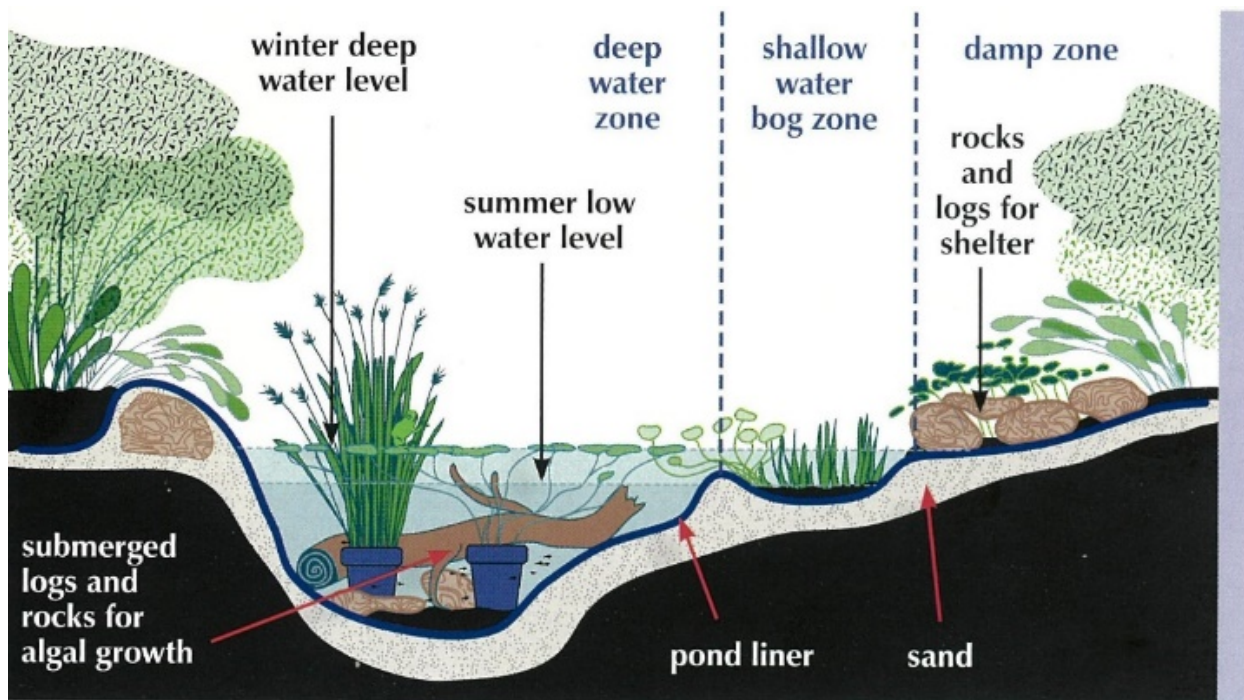
Ferny azolla (*Azolla pinnata*)

Floating duckweed (*Lemna spp.*)

*Water ribbon occurs in both emergent and floating forms.

For more information, check out Southern Dandenong Community Nursery's brochure <http://sdcn.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/FROGPONDS.pdf>

Encourage frogs to your pond by providing:



There are eight frog species found in Cardinia. Click on the links below for information about each species and listen to their unique calls.

- [Growling Grass Frog](#) (*Litoria raniformis*)
- [Southern Toadlet](#) (*Pseudophryne semimarmorata*)
- [Striped Marsh Frog](#) (*Limnodynastes peroni*)
- [Spotted Marsh Frog](#) (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*)
- [Southern Brown Tree Frog](#) (*Litoria ewingi*)
- [Common Froglet](#) (*Crinia signifera*)
- [Whistling Tree Frog](#) (*Litoria verreauxi*)
- [Pobblebonk or Eastern Bango Frog](#) (*Limnodynastes dumerili*)

For more information about each frog, including listening to their call, click on the frog's common name or check out www.frogs.org.au/frogs



Water ribbons by Chris Clarke, Natureshare



Southern brown tree frog by David Francis, Natureshare