

## How to attract amphibians to the garden

These creatures can be helped by providing a [pond](#) where the tadpoles can develop.

- At least one side of the pool should gradually slope up to dry land, this enables the young amphibians to leave the water once the tadpole stage is over
- If the pond has steep sides a ramp covered in chicken wire in one corner can help
- Small amphibians can be predated by birds and other predators, growing plants around the pool will provide some cover
- When in the pond, frogs and toads need a point above the water on which to rest and breathe. In the summer a water lily pad may suffice but a more permanent solution is to position a few rocks or logs half in and half out of the water if there are no suitable areas of shallow water
- Allow new ponds to become colonised naturally by amphibians that are likely to be already present in the area, rather than transferring spawn or tadpoles. This reduces the risk of spreading infection and diseases which can kill amphibians
- Newts are probably the most aquatic of British amphibians. Attract them by allowing grass to grow over the pond edge into the water and introducing non-invasive submerged aquatic plants. Newts use narrow-leaved water plants on which to lay their eggs, placing each egg between a folded leaf
- Fish will eat spawn, tadpoles and other pond life so should not be introduced into a pond for amphibians

Adult amphibians often spend time out of water, especially over winter. In the autumn, many amphibians seek sheltered places away from ponds where they shelter until the following spring.

- Log piles provide good shelters. Frogs, toads and newts will also find suitable places in hedge bottoms, compost heaps and under stones
- Frogs and newts will also overwinter in the bottom of ponds

