

FROGS & TOADS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST

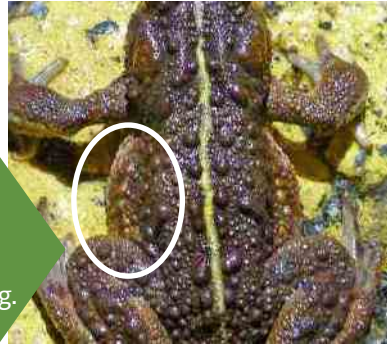
Does the frog have...

- many tough warts *and*
- a light-coloured line down its back?

Western Toad

Anaxyrus boreas

- Lives on land in sheltered areas like forests.
- Swarms of tiny toadlets migrate in the spring.



Warts and line



NO

- prominent adhesive toepads on the front feet *and*
- a bandit-like eye mask?

Pacific Chorus Frog

Pseudacris regilla

- Lives everywhere, even urban environments.
- Vocal frog whose colour ranges from brown to bright green.



Toepads and eye mask



NO

- skin ridges down either side of its back *and*
- no visible ear drum?

Northern Red-legged Frog

Rana aurora

- Lives in moist habitats like ponds and forests.
- Known for its long legs with red undersides.



Skin ridges down back



NO

- eyes set back on the head *and* facing upward?

Oregon Spotted Frog

Rana pretiosa

- Lives in water year round.
- Rarest frog in Canada.
- Easily confused with the Red-Legged Frog but lacks skin ridges on its back.



Eyes facing upwards



NO

FROGS & TOADS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST – continued from front

Does the frog have...

- a tail (males only)?
- vertical pupils (like a cat)?

Coastal Tailed Frog

Ascaphus truei

- Lives in or near fast moving mountain streams.
- Smallest frog in BC.



Vertical pupils



Photo Chris Lee

Tail (males only)

NO

- a large visible ear drum *and*
- skin ridges down either side of its back?

Green Frog

Rana clamitans

- Lives in ponds and wetlands everywhere.
- Sounds like a banjo and calls in the summer.

INVASIVE!



Ear drum & skin ridges



NO

- a large visible ear drum *and*
- no skin ridges on the back?

American Bullfrog

Rana catesbeiana

- Lives in ponds and wetlands everywhere.
- Voracious predator – eats native frogs!

INVASIVE!

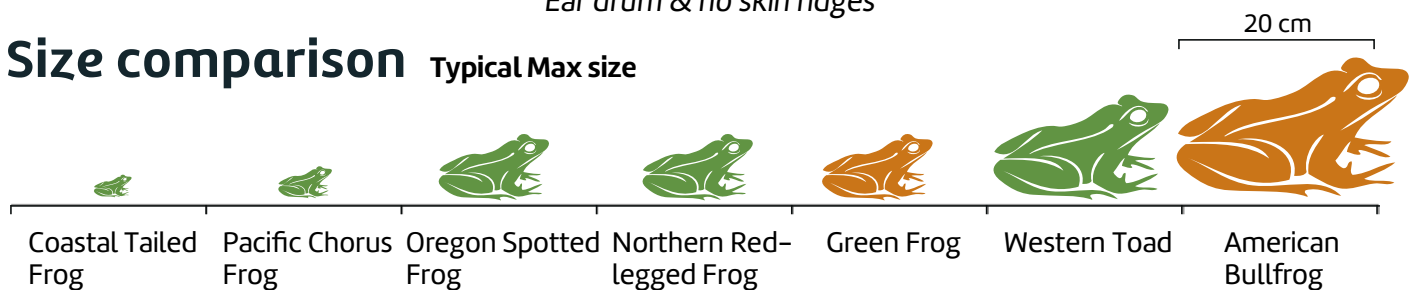


Ear drum & no skin ridges



Size comparison

Typical Max size



Don't be distracted by colour!

All these frogs come in different colours, so use the identifying features listed.



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Fraser Valley Conservancy
Placing lands in trust for our future

If you would like help identifying an amphibian, send a picture to outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca

AQUATIC AMPHIBIAN EGGS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST

Most native amphibians like frogs, toads and salamanders lay their eggs in water between the months of February and May. This includes ponds, wetlands, and human-made sites. Use this guide to help identify them.

Are the eggs...

- Long strings of jelly tangled together, or around sticks or vegetation?
- Small and black?



Western Toad

Anaxyrus boreas

- Lays eggs in a variety of shallow aquatic habitats, such as lakes, ponds and wetlands.
- Typically breeds in the same location every year.

- Laid individually, with a thin jelly coat less than the diameter of the egg?
- Well-hidden, attached to thin-stemmed plants or in a folded leaf?



Roughskin Newt

Taricha granulosa

- Lays eggs in ponds, lakes, wetlands, or slow moving streams along shallow, vegetated shorelines.

- Found singly or in a small, firm cluster that is round or elongated?
- Surrounded by a thick jelly layer that makes them look widely spaced?



Long-toed Salamander

Ambystoma macrodactylum

- Usually lays eggs in large, shallow lakes and ponds with boggy edges.

- Found collectively in a small, soft cluster that is round or elongated?
- Surrounded by a thin jelly layer that makes them look closely packed?



Pacific Chorus Frog

Pseudacris regilla

- Lays eggs in shallow wetlands or ponds, but also in human-made locations such as uncovered swimming pools.

AQUATIC AMPHIBIAN EGGS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST – *continued*

Are the eggs...

- Closely packed in a large, loose cluster up to the size of a melon?
- In a mass attached to submerged vegetation or debris such as sticks?



Northern Red-legged Frog

Rana aurora

- Lays eggs in cool ponds or lake margins, slow moving streams, marshes or bogs usually at least 50 cm deep.

- Found in egg masses that are laid in groups adjacent to each other?
- Never attached to vegetation and near or slightly above the water surface?



Oregon Spotted Frog

Rana pretiosa

- Similar to Northern Red-legged Frog egg masses in size and look.
- A rare frog in Canada that only occurs in a few areas of the Fraser Valley.
- Lays eggs in very shallow water in slow moving and warm wetlands.

- In a globular cluster, up to the size of a softball?
- Very firm to the touch?
- Attached around a stick or vegetation?



Northwestern Salamander

Ambystoma gracile

- Lays eggs in a variety of habitats such as wetlands, ponds, lake edges, ditches and slow moving streams.

Other species not depicted:

The native **Coastal Tailed Frog** (*Ascaphus truei*) and **Coastal Giant Salamander** (*Dicamptodon Tenebrosus*) lay their elusive eggs under rocks and logs in forested hillside streams. The non-native **American Bullfrog** (*Rana catesbeiana*) and **Green Frog** (*Rana clamitans*) are invasive species that also lay their eggs in water. However, they lay their eggs in the summer and in large sheets of jelly. The two other local species of salamander lay their eggs on land.

Identify with care!

Amphibian eggs and egg masses are fragile. An underwater photo of the egg mass can help with identification. Handle them as little as possible. If you must, touch or prod the eggs gently and ensure that they stay upright. Do not remove eggs from the water or break them apart. Make sure hands are clean and cold with no lotion, bug spray or sunscreen. It is illegal to move eggs to another location without a permit. If you would like help identifying amphibian eggs or to report a sighting, contact outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca.