

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?

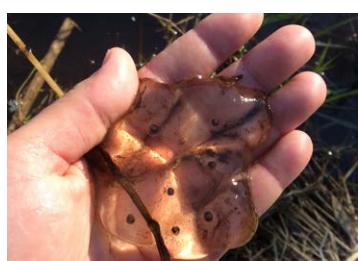


Roughskin Newt

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?

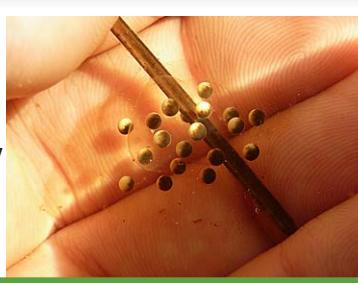


Long-toed Salamander

Ambystoma macractylum

- 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.



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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.



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