

Fish for Frog Ponds



Left:
Bitterling

Top Right:
Murray River Rainbow

Bottom Right:
Duboulay's Rainbow

All of these fish are frog friendly, and suited to ponds in most parts of Australia



Keeping frogs in ponds is a rewarding past-time but care should be taken in selecting the appropriate fish to keep, as many pond fish will eat frogs or tadpoles.

Most fish are opportunistic and given the chance will eat small frogs or emerging tadpoles. Traditional pond species such as goldfish are easy to see, but will eat tadpoles unless the pond has extensive plant growth. Smaller species of fish may be useful for mosquito control but will not be easily seen in the pond as they hide among plants, and usually do not have the bright colours of goldfish.

Frog friendly native species:

Carp Gudgeon	<i>Hypseleotris</i> sp.
Australian Rainbows	<i>Melanotaenia</i> sp.
Freshwater Hardyheads	<i>Craterocephalus</i> sp.
Chanda Perchlets	<i>Ambassis</i> sp
Galaxias sp.	<i>Galaxias olidus</i>
Pygmy Perch	<i>Nannoperca</i> sp.
Blue eyes	<i>Pseudomugil</i> sp.

Frog friendly exotic species:

Whiteclouds	<i>Tanichthys albonubes</i>
Medakas	<i>Oryzias latipes</i>
Spotted live bearer	<i>Phalloceros caudimaculatus</i>
Bitterlings	<i>Rhodeus</i> sp.

Tips for a successful frog pond

It is important to note a few points about how to look after the pond:

- Provide aquatic plants and plenty of 'substrate' to create hiding places for the frogs and fish, particularly around the edges of the pond where tadpoles will be. Any substrate can be used to provide hiding places. Examples are pipes, logs or pieces of wood, and pieces of shade cloth or netting.
- Feed the fish regularly. This will provide food for them so that they do not have to go hunting for food such as tadpoles or frogs.
- Exercise caution when using chemicals in the pond. Most chemicals used for the treatment of fish diseases, algae control etc are toxic to frogs.
- The Aquarium Industries "Caring for Fish in Ponds" care sheet also contains useful information about ensuring that your pond is healthy.

It should also be noted that there may be regulations in your state regarding the keeping of frogs as many are threatened or endangered. It is recommended you check with your local Environment Department regarding relevant legislation.