

Chapter 1 : Get Rid of Insects in the Garden With Toads - Organic Gardening - MOTHER EARTH NEWS

Attracting toads is the dream of many gardeners. Having toads in the garden is very beneficial as they naturally prey on insects, slugs and snails, up to 10, in a single summer. Having a resident toad keeps the pest population down and reduces the need for harsh pesticides or labor intensive.

Toads are actually frogs. The term "toad" tends to refer to the "True Toads" Toads are fat-bodied, where frogs are generally slim. Toads can live in drier climates, where most frogs usually live in or near water. In the Tropics, where most anuran members of the order comprising the frogs, toads, and tree toads species occur, however, the differences are harder to determine, and some species could qualify as either toads or frogs. Toads are characterized by: The physical distinctions of toads to frogs, can easily get blurred because sometimes the features appear mixed or less obvious, and certain species even legitimately fall into both categories. Even the inside stuff like cartilage structure has been found to sometimes fit both categories. Toads are often brownish or grayish in color with bright, jewel-like eyes with a transverse pupil; and slightly webbed toes. Toads are often stouter than frogs and cannot leap as far. The tongue of the toad is attached to the front of its mouth. The tongue is flicked forward from the mouth, and the sticky tip grasps the prey and carries it back to the mouth. Unlike most frogs, most toads do not have teeth. Toads eat insects, grubs, slugs, worms, and other invertebrates like other amphibians do. As tadpoles, they eat plants. Toads, as pets, will eat fruit or vegetables. But toads in the garden, as insect eaters, should be valued for their role in pest-control! Toads are native to most of the major landmasses of the world except Greenland, Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, Madagascar, and of course, the polar regions. But they are most abundant in the tropical regions. Toads can live farther from water sources than frogs can. Though *Bufo marinus* has been artificially introduced into Australia and some South Pacific islands. Toads are mostly nocturnal, resting during the day in burrows, in trees, or under leaves, undected unless they leap out from under your feet. Toads will also hibernate in burrows. In spring they mate, and the females which tend to be bigger than the males lay their eggs in the water in gelatinous strings that are 4 ft. These strands are usually double strands, where frog eggs are laid in clumps. There are some toads genera *Nectophrynoides* that are the only types of anurans to bear live young! Toads tend to lay many eggs because there are many hazards between fertilization and becoming full grown. In captivity, many species of frogs and toads can live for surprisingly long times. They seem generally to average somewhere between 4 and 15 years! Their tongues produce quantities of mucus to help in swallowing. All anurans toads included blink when they swallow. And because no bone exists between the eye and the mouth, the eye is pushed against the roof of the mouth, forcing the food further back. The parotoid glands, the swellings behind the eyes, are a defense against predators. These glands secrete fluids that are toxic if taken internally. The warts on some toads exude a similar toxin. Some toads can squirt poison at potential predators, from the parotoid glands. And despite the myth, toads do not cause warts! Toads found in the southern Appalachians are: The following are all pictures of American Toads and Toadlets:

Chapter 2 : How to Attract Toads to the Garden - Turning the Clock Back

The toads have startled me a few times, but I love having them as part of my garden because I know they are helping with the bugs. Thought I'd post as a suggestion for any old birdbath tops anyone finds.

Add to Bookmarks Throughout the world frogs and toads are frequent garden visitors, and though few stay unless the environment is ideal, some gardeners would like them to, and may even want them as pets. This article is for those gardeners not lucky enough to have perfect environments already to keep a healthy amphibian in their gardens. There are literally thousands and thousands of species of frogs and toads throughout the world but this article will only touch on a few, almost all which are going to be found easily in the USA either as wild creatures or as common pet store items. The frogs of the world are currently going through a mass extinction, or at least a drastic reduction in numbers, which we still not are sure the causes of. This is a good time to learn how to care for the few amphibians friends we have and learn to provide ideal diets and environments for them so we can avoid being part of the problem. Golden Toad from Costa Rica, abundant not that long ago but already extinct today Photo Wikipedia. Before you make a wild frog or toad a pet, you might check with the legality of having a native species a pet some states frown on this, though it is weakly policed, particularly with common, non-threatened species like most frogs and toads. Also, it best to read up on your frog or toad- though their basic care may be the same for many frogs, it is not the same for all frogs and toads, and many require unique, or even complex care. Additionally, some species are very fragile and do not make good pets. And some species are very poisonous most frogs and toads are at least somewhat poisonous, though only if the secretions get in a cut or in mucous membranes. For beginners in the frog and toad pet keeping, it is best to start with easy, relatively non-poisonous and sturdy species. A common toad left can make a pretty good pet photo Wikipedia ; though poison arrow frogs generally do not unless you have some expertise in that area right Indoor Pets: Many frogs can make interesting and fairly easy pets, but none are so easy that one can just ignore them for days on end. There is a commitment that needs to be made before deciding to keep anything as a pet. There are of course moral and ethical issues one may run into when owning any non-domestic species as pets, but those are far beyond the scope of this article. Some articles on frog care recommend starting with interesting, active species, since most amphibian pets can quickly become boring sitting and occasional eating lumps of tissue. This is particularly true if you are getting a pet frog for someone young. If you are getting a pet for your child, realistically, you will be the one most likely to end up taking care of it. Frogs and toads, if kept properly, can live many years, long after the novelty has worn off. The more active and interesting the species, the more likely it will be looked after well. The common Leopard Frog, for instance, not only needs a fairly large tank to do well in about 50 gal , but quickly becomes a tank fixture and does nothing but eat and sit and hide. It is a durable, tolerant species, but sort of boring as a pet. Unfortunately too many start out with Pixie or Pacman Frogs, which do nothing but sit and eat, or poison arrow frogs which are delicate and need specialized care and therefore usually end up dying under many inexperienced frog caretakers. Oriental Firebellied Toad left - one of the more interesting and active amphibian pets Photos Wikipedia; Cuban Tree Frog right is one of the easier species, too Frogs and toads can be crudely divided up into three basic types- aquatic, semiaquatic and climbing tree frogs. Toads are usually terrestrial, but a few species are aquatic like the firebellied toads. These frogs act a bit more like a fish than frogs and the tanks need only contain water, plants, a hiding place and possibly a filter. ACFs are common research frogs specifically because they are so durable and such good breeders So a little paranoia might be warranted in those states. I think African Dwarf Frogs are not taboo yet. African Clawed Frogs *Xenopus laevis* can get pretty large Photo Wikipedia Substrate should be large gravel too large to ingest- frogs will eat anything they can, including rocks! Never use wood chips, sand or small gravel. Water should not be too deep one foot is enough. They need to get oxygen from the air no gills so deep tanks can wear them out. As with all amphibians, they need dechlorinated water bottled water, treated tap water or tap water that has sat out for hours. Filling a frog tank with tap water, with the frogs in it, can easily result in them all dying off. Frogs do not drink any frogs - they absorb all their water through their skin, but with the water comes all the other stuff,

like impurities, chlorine etc. And so this also means the water needs to be cleaned regularly or their own wastes will make them toxic, too. Change water at least once a week, even if a filtration system is used few filtration systems can keep up with frog pee and poo. Some filtration systems can stress frogs out this is theory, not really fact and some can literally suck them up this is fact. African Dwarf Frog photo Wikipedia Water temperature should be mid 60Fs to mid 70Fs same for most other non-tropical amphibians as well. In most houses this is room temperature so usually no extra heat will need to be provided. There are many choices when it comes to feeding these- they are easier to feed than most frogs. They eat about anything. Best to pick balanced meals small fish, earthworms, dog food, Clawed Frog food yes, it is commercially available , slugs and snails Some move their frogs to a feeding tank since the water can become filthy and disgusting in a short time, and often frogs will defecate soon after eating. And then they can be moved back. Do not handle these or any frogs much if at all. The oils on your hands and other things like soaps, chemicals etc. If you need to handle them, wash and rinse your hands well. Most frogs are semiaquatic, so a tank with dirt, a pond, some plants, moss and hiding places is a good idea. But not too complex or cleaning it out regularly will quickly get old. Toads are generally terrestrial, but will do well in such a tank, too. The smaller the frog or toad species, the smaller the tank needed. However, many frogs available that fit this description are somewhat larger like Leopard Frogs and other Rana species, and Bull Frogs and will need fairly large tanks. Firebellied toads are a bit different from most other toads, also would do well in this sort of tank. But a tank that is a bit more water than dry land is better for these super-active and noisy creatures. Water level should be shallow several inches deep for most non-aquatic frogs and toads. This makes things easier to clean, and you will be less apt to get a drowned frog or toad. European Firebellied Toad photos from Wikipedia Most of these frogs and toads will eat just about any insect that is not too venomous or poisonous. Some of the larger ones can even be fed small mice preferably not adult mice unless they are already killed. A variety of food items is recommended, but do not overwhelm or stress out your pets by putting too many food items in at once. This is particularly true if your frog or toad is not feeling well, or simply full, as many insects, particularly crickets, will damage frogs and toads as they just sit there. Feed small amounts at a time and be observant, removing food items that do not seem to interesting to your pet and are potentially injurious fruit flies and earth worms are usually fairly safe to leave in a while. Most amphibians do not need to be fed daily- two to three times a week will often be sufficient. All dead food and stools need to be cleaned up daily as they will quickly mold or start attracting parasites you do not want in your tank. Leopard Frogs are excellent jumpers and will readily escape an open tank photo Wikipedia Water needs to be changed frequently, particularly for species that use it a lot less for toads than for most frogs, except firebellied toads should obviously be changed daily. Just as with aquatic frogs, water needs to be non-chlorinated or it could kill your pet. Frogs need more plants or humidity retaining items in the cage large ponds, moss perhaps, wetted coconut coir etc. I have kept Cricket Frogs in such a set up for years and fed them flightless fruit flies and insects from the yard. I found these fairly entertaining pets. Photo Wikipedia Lighting for diurnal amphibians should include at least one good UV source. Research these lights well as some are too weak and some are too strong though most of those quickly get moved off the market. UV lighting is not necessary for nocturnal species. Poison Arrow frogs are tempting since they are so cute, small and brilliantly colored Right is a photo of some for sale at local reptile show. Left photo is from Wikipedia Pixie South American and Pacman South African Frogs are common large pet store creatures, but slovenly, sluggish eating machines. These are fascinating looking creatures but do very little other than burrow or sit in shallow water waiting for prey to come along in other words, for you basically hand feed it, or provide it easy prey. Food consists of large insects, fish and mice even. And both these frogs have large lower teeth-like projections that feel just like teeth when the bite you usually as you are attempting to hand feed them. They also poop a lot are require a lot of cleaning. They like it warmer than many other frog species, as do tropical tree frogs high 70Fs to mid 80Fs. They also need UV light these are diurnal creatures. Pixie Frog or South African Bulfrog photo Wikipedia Baby Pacman Frogs are cute and look easy left , but they quickly grow into these monsters right photos Wikipedia Tree Frogs can have very similar set-ups to terrestrial frogs and toads, and many even like it a bit on the drier side like some toads do. Most Tree Frogs spend most of their time on the walls of the tank and do not move around a whole lot. Tree frogs do not burrow, so one can

often get away with Astroturf instead of dirt as a substrate- might make the tank a bit easier to clean up. Upright tanks are recommended over low, wide tanks. Some tree frogs need more humidity and moisture than others eg Dumpy Tree frogs and Red-Eyed Tree Frogs like it moister and warmer than many other species. So careful with the over-feeding. Common Tree Frog left needs no extra heating and is easy, while the Red-eyed Tree Frog right may be beautiful and fascinating, but it needs more heat and humidity and is a bit harder to keep happy in captivity. Both photos Wikipedia For more on how to take care of indoor frogs, see the link below. Bull Frog left - a common frog found in larger ponds not a good tank pet, unless you have a really big tank. Spadefoot toad right is one I have had personal experience raising in a pond. Photos from Wikipedia But if you have a pond and want to keep, and possibly breed your own frogs and toads, it is a great way to populate your garden with effective predatory creatures that may help keep your insect numbers down. Both frogs and toads, with some exceptions, lay their eggs in water some in temporary puddles, some in permanent ponds and streams. If you come across some frog or toad eggs, that is the best life stage to transport to your pond as many frogs and toads are instinctively drawn back to where they were born. Transporting them as tadpoles does not always mean they will come back to your pond and may try to find their birth ponds instead at least that has been my experience with Leopard Frogs and Spadefoot toads. Frog eggs left - photo Wikipedia; right is shot of tadpoles seen in local Southern California slow stream that is dry most of the year- most likely toad tadpoles *Rana pipens* tadpole left, or above and Tree frog tadpole right, or below. Photos Wikipedia Water needs to be clean but not chlorinated no tap water. Any kind of toxins or poisons even from poisonous or resinous plants dropping leaves or needles from above can wipe out an entire pond of tadpoles they are ultra sensitive to chemicals at this age. Great looking pond and ideal for frogs, but not predator proof.

Chapter 3 : www.nxgvision.com: Customer reviews: Toad in My Garden

Toad houses are not very hard to find on the internet and they can be incorporated into a rock garden or used in a vegetable garden or dirt strip. Online auction sites are a great place to look. You can try alternative sites to ebay to find better prices.

Our ponds take care of their water needs. Toads look very curmudgeon-y. We hope we have a safe enough environment for them to live more than just a few years. The one in the photo is probably a second year toad and most likely is one of the toads that grew from an egg laid in our pond. We would love to know how many toads are in our yard, but I know of no way to determine that. I believe we have a very toad-friendly yard, and so I hope we have a lot. You can never have too many toads. You have too few toads! Can you find all 5 frogs? After a few years with no frogs, a friend brought young frogs that had taken up residence in his swimming pool. Non-native species could create just one more problem for the world. This went on for three or four years. They were nice to have since they were usually visible during the day, unlike toads which we see only during mating season and occasionally around the yard. Unfortunately, a severe winter killed all the frogs. Our pond less than 24" deep is just not deep enough for them to successfully hibernate in a severe winter. Toads, on the other hand, hibernate in the soil, and since we have so much exposed soil i. Spring Peeper Having a spring peeper was an experience. In fact, the whole neighborhood heard it. We went on a walk to see how far away we could hear it: So far, that has been a one-time experience, one that I miss. Frogs and Toads of New York Nova Scotia Herpetofaunal Atlas Project - Good source of information on identifying species of salamanders, frogs, toads, and snakes, in both adult and tadpole forms.

Chapter 4 : How to Kill or Get Rid of Frogs and Toads | Dengarden

Common Toads usually migrate to ancestral breeding ponds in spring and are associated with larger ponds (fish ponds, reservoirs and farmland ponds) but are known to breed in some garden ponds. Toads lay their eggs in long chains which they wrap around submerged vegetation.

These are the common toads you can find across much of the eastern United States and southeastern Canada. They are very similar, and what you describe could be either one for tips to tell the adults apart, click here. If you live near a pond or lake or stream where the tadpoles are common, you might all of a sudden see dozens or even hundreds of these tiny toadlets for a few days, and after that, see them only occasionally. There are at least two successful strategies for becoming a grown up frog or toad. At one extreme is the bullfrog *Rana catesbeiana*. Its tadpoles typically grow for two summers and can become cm long inches before metamorphosing into a legged frog. American toad eggs hatch into relatively small tadpoles that grow for only a month or two to about 1. American toads can grow to about 9 cm 3. For the American toad, the major period of growth is clearly the terrestrial stage of life, not the aquatic tadpole stage, as it is for the bullfrog. And while toad tadpoles often metamorphose in synchrony, with thousands coming out of a pond within a couple of days, bullfrogs metamorphose whenever they are individually ready. So what are the benefits of each strategy? With bullfrog tadpoles, larger size makes them less susceptible to predators in the water. In fact, it makes them better able to be predators themselves. Though they mostly eat algae and plant matter, they will eat any insect larvae or small crustaceans they can find. They also eat other tadpoles, including those smallish toad tadpoles. Because bullfrog tadpoles are relatively large and mobile, they can survive to live one, two, and in some cases three years, building size and storing up energy so that when they turn into frogs, they are large enough to avoid being prey to many fish and other creatures that eat smaller frogs. Because of their large tadpole size, bullfrogs are one of the few frogs in North America that will breed in permanent bodies of water that contain large fish. Most other frogs and toads do better in vernal pools and other bodies of water that occasionally dry up and which therefore have few, if any, fish. Meanwhile, the small toad tadpoles eat just enough to build up the energy to metamorphose and get out of that dangerous pond before it dries up or a fish or predatory insect gets them. Unfortunately, this means they are very easy prey for all kinds of predators on land, especially snakes. Garter snakes, for example, will gather around ponds and pools and gorge themselves on toadlets as they emerge from the water. Toads counteract this danger in two ways. First, they have poison glands on their backs that make most animals reluctant to eat them. Garter snakes and some other predators are immune to this toxin, however. The second defense is the fact that so many toadlets come out of the water at the same time. This is a strategy that is very common for creatures that get heavily preyed upon at a specific stage of their life cycle. Further explanation of how metamorphosing all at once works as an adaptation to predation Imagine if instead of coming out of the water all at once, the toads came out spaced out over the entire summer. If a garter snake was adapted to specialize on toadlets, it could do very well with a steady diet of toadlets, which might lead to a large enough population of such snakes that it would be almost impossible for any toadlets to get past the snake gauntlet alive. But imagine if an adaptation arose that made some toadlets come out of the water at the same time. By overwhelming the predators, more of those toadlets might survive to breed than toadlets that come out at random times, and in future generations, there would be more of the synchronous toadlets and fewer of the toadlets that are not synchronized. As the adaptation became more common, the effect of overwhelming the predators would be even more pronounced. The same principle applies with insects like cicadas that all emerge at the same time. By not having a bumper crop every year, the oaks limit the ability of seed predators to specialize on their acorns. Interactions between recently metamorphosed green frogs and American toads under laboratory conditions. The American midland naturalist, 2 , The roles of predator identity and group size in the antipredator responses of American toad *Bufo americanus* and bullfrog *Rana catesbeiana* tadpoles. Differential predation on metamorphic anurans by garter snakes *Thamnophis* Social-behavior as a possible defense. Ecology, 59 5 , Effects of individual variation in age and size at metamorphosis on growth and survivorship of southern toad *Bufo terrestris*

metamorphs. Canadian journal of zoology, 77 6 , Overwintered bullfrog tadpoles negatively affect salamanders and anurans in native amphibian communities. Copeia, 3 , Juvenile frogs compensate for small metamorph size with terrestrial growth: Overcoming the effects of larval density and insecticide exposure. Journal of Herpetology, 39 3 , Growth and survival of postmetamorphic toads “ Interactions among larval history, density, and parasitism. Ecology, 75 8 , Cite this article as: What are these tiny toads?

Chapter 5 : The Easiest Way to Keep a Wild Caught Toad As a Pet - wikiHow

I need some help to identify my toads' spawn we have mating pairs spread around three ponds in the garden. Had to move 18 pairs from heavy pumps and found a reddish white female with a normal green male paired.

Contact Author Frog in a pond. Frogs and toads are tremendously beneficial to gardeners and anyone who loves to spend any time outside. They eat thousands of insect pests, including pesky mosquitoes and flies. A single adult toad can eat as many as 10, insects every summer. They will also fill the air with their generally relaxing songs, and be interesting and well-behaved neighbors to have around, especially if any of your children are budding naturalists. Unfortunately, frog and toad populations are in decline around the world due to habitat loss and their extreme susceptibility to pollution. They breathe and drink through their skins, so both air and water pollution affect them directly. You can give frogs and toads a helping hand by providing a safe haven for them in your garden. Go Organic One of the single most important things you can do to welcome frogs and toads into your yard is to go organic. Chemical pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides can all poison them. Instead of spraying poisons to kill insect pests, let the frogs and toads take care of them! If you stop using pesticides, a host of other hungry wildlife, including birds and beneficial insects such as ladybugs and dragonflies, will also move in to the area, eager to munch on any pests that show up. Organic methods of soil improvement can also help you eliminate your need for fertilizers and herbicides. Convincing a few frogs to pop over for a visit sometimes should not be difficult at all. However, the best choice is to build yourself a pond. The ideal pond would include plenty of shallows for toads to rest and breed in, a deep area of at least two meters for overwintering, and plenty of vegetation preferably native to your area around the edges to hide out in. Frogs really do like lily pads! Provide shallow not steep edges so they can easily climb in and out, or add a couple logs partly in and partly out of the water. Both frogs and toads will also really appreciate some rocks around the edges for sunning themselves. Photo by Steve Beger Photography. Provide Shelter Toads will especially appreciate a pile of large rocks stacked with plenty of crevices and cavities to provide a cool, safe place to hide from predators and hot summer days. Toads also like to burrow down into soft, moist dirt under logs and boards. You can also purchase a toad house. These come in many attractive designs and many toads seem to love them. If possible, try to find a house with two doors to provide an escape route in case the house is discovered by predators. Snakes are a threat to frogs and toads, and domestic animals such as cats and dogs will sometimes attack them. The most common reason toad houses go unused is their size. For example, adult females of *Bufo americanus*, one of the most common species of toads throughout the eastern United States, can get up to four inches wide! An overturned terra cotta flower pot, either propped up with a large rock or with a doorway broken into the side, also works fine. They also appreciate plenty of loose leaf litter left under bushes and in other shaded, cool, moist areas. Not only does leaf litter provide shelter and camouflage, it is also a one-stop amphibian buffet. Some frogs and toads also overwinter underneath piles of leaves. The heat of decomposition keeps them from freezing to death. More Tips Toads sometimes become trapped in window wells and die. Prop a log or 2x4 in your window wells to act as a ladder for them to escape. Lights will attract night-flying insects Our toads figured out how to set off the motion sensor light above our garage door and spend many happy summer nights hopping around the driveway to keep the light on, chowing down on any insects that come near. NEVER purchase or capture frogs or toads to release into your yard. Chances are good that they will die. Instead, follow the tips above to provide the best habitat you can and be patient. Remember, if you build it, they will come. Learn More The place on the web dedicated to toads. Care, information, *bufo americanus* care, *bufo marinus* information and more. Plus global amphibian crisis information.

Chapter 6 : Amphibians | Our Habitat Garden

As I traveled down my life's path, I became a maker of birdhouses and whimsical fairy & gnome homes. This endeavor proved rewarding and successful and one Spring I decided to add Toad Houses to my repertoire, always having fond memories of my original helpers in the garden.

They eat insects each night! Bowling Toads are natural insecticides and easy to attract to your home garden. Warty-skinned, dumpy, and lethargic, the jewel-eyed toad is a prodigious consumer of just about anything that moves and will fit in its mouth. Although most of its prey falls into the category we label "pests" toads love cutworms! Beetles of every description, caterpillars, flies, larvae, moths, and wireworms are all fair game for this insectivore. It likes slugs and snails, too. The amount that an individual toad may consume in a single feeding is astonishing. One toad was observed to eat 86 houseflies. Use Toads to Get Rid of Insects in the Garden – No Matter Where you Live Eighteen species of true toads live in this country, with at least a few kinds to be found in every state in the union yes, even in Alaska! Although similar, toads and frogs are easily distinguished. Mature toads are dry, bumpy skinned, brownish, plump, deliberate in their movements, and look rather pompous. They hop – slowly – and may puff themselves up to discourage unwelcome attention. Frogs, on the other hand, are moist and smooth-skinned, greenish, slender, a bit dandified in appearance, and alert. They leap – often with a total disregard for the consequences – and usually try to escape rather than bluff would-be captors. Of course, mature toads can be caught during any warm month. You can track down these mature specimens with a flashlight they rarely run from the beam, quietly following their voices until you locate them. They can then be apprehended with a net, a bucket, a bag, a box, or even your bare hands. None of these natural defenses will harm you, but you should wash your hands promptly and thoroughly afterward, as the glandular secretion can irritate mucous membranes such as those in the mouth or eyes. Eggs are laid in shallow water that is slow moving or still. Frog eggs are also black, but are laid in clusters, with each embryo encased in its own round capsule of jelly. Carefully scoop the fragile tubes into a bucket. Toad tads are small, very dark brown or black, and may have minute gold stipples on their oval, short-tailed bodies. At this stage, toads can best be distinguished from frogs by color: Most frog tadpoles are not black. Capture the little wrigglers just as you would the eggs. No more than a dozen should be kept in a one- to two-gallon container. A spare string of eggs in a separate jar can be used to replace any eggs that die or become diseased if they turn white, they should be removed at once. Because the eggs and tadpoles are susceptible to overheating, be sure never to leave them in direct sunlight for an entire day. In addition, every week or so, place a few more algae-covered rocks and bits of waterweed in the toad nursery for food. And keep an eye on the water level. In 50 to 65 days – usually around late June or July – the babies will develop into tiny toadlets that look like smooth-skinned miniature adults. The youngsters crawl onto land and hide in nearby vegetation for a few days. Then, with the first rain shower or cloudy, humid day, they migrate – sometimes in droves! Those animals that survive grow quickly, shedding their skins every few weeks. Once on land, toads require a cool, damp place to live. An old dishpan buried to the rim will serve quite well when filled with water and given several fist-sized rocks that protrude above the surface. Toads are territorial and are loners by nature, so if you want more than one hopper in your garden you should set up several small, scattered puddles rather than one large pool. The Friendly Amphibian Toads usually live in a small area and return to a favorite spot each evening to feed. They can be taught to come out of hiding when called and to accept food from humans. In fact, if feeding is done on a regular schedule, many toads even anticipate their dinner! They eat only moving prey, so proffered delicacies should be waved in front of them on the end of a twig. Furthermore, the bug hunters respond to the "soft touch". Once accustomed to gentle handling, a toad will settle serenely in your opened palm, often stretching out one hind leg at a time to have it stroked and scratched. Although eggs and tadpoles require a bit of nurturing, adult toads need only to have their ponds refilled during dry spells. In return, they will provide the gardener with many years of faithful service in biological insect control and the pleasure of animal companionship.

Chapter 7 : Encouraging Toads in Your Garden

A well-kempt garden is the toad's worst enemy. They need leaves to hide under and long grass to hop through—plus, leaving some of last year's detritus to decay on the ground will attract them.

Contact Author Source I understand that there are a lot of frog lovers out there and that by posting this article, I may offend some of you, but let me just be honest here: Frogs are great creatures in their own natural environment, but not in my back yard. You would think I would have become used to the loud croaking, but it got worse everyday. These creatures croaked so loudly outside my bedroom that my window started vibrating. If you are like me, you want advice that will work, once and for all. Here are six steps to getting rid of the noisy, croaking frogs in your yard and keeping them away. Identify the Species of Frog or Toad As much as you might just want to exterminate them, some species are protected by law. Chances are that you have some neighbors who actually like frogs. To be on the safe side and avoid problems with your neighbors and the law, check what species you are dealing with. Some species are protected, but others are considered invasive, and killing them is legal. The American Bullfrog, for example, is not protected. After confirming the species, consult the laws in your area to make sure it is legal to exterminate them. The American Bullfrog is considered an invasive species. Are the noisy frogs in your yard American Bullfrogs? Rubber snakes in my pool to scare them away Snake repellent Getting a cat or a dog Pesticides and chlorine The frogs kept coming back. Strangely, they even became immune to chlorine after a while. What worked for me was removing their habitat. Frogs are amphibians, which means they live on both dry land and water. If your yard has a water feature a pond or pool, then that is what attracts the frogs. Drain the pond or pool and leave it empty for a couple of weeks. Trim weeds or other nearby plantings. Do not leave out water for birds or other animals. These things will make your yard less attractive to frogs. Eventually, they will just go away and find another place to live. In addition to the water source and plantings, your yard must offer something that is sustaining them. Getting rid of their food supply will send the frogs hopping away to find a better place to live. Turn off outside lights at night. Lights attract bugs, and bugs attract frogs. Use mild insecticides to get rid of other bugs they may be eating. If you want to get rid of noisy frogs, you will have to temporarily remove the habitat that they like: Create a Barrier Some frogs can hop very high, but American Bullfrogs can only hop about a foot or two. Keep new frogs from coming into your yard with a barrier they cannot get through or over. Set up plastic or mesh fencing around your yard. Make sure the holes are small smaller even than chicken wire so small frogs cannot squeeze through. Scoop them up and out. Using a long-handled net with small-holed mesh, scoop the frogs out of your pool or pond and place them into a tall container, like a garbage can or lightweight barrel. This is really a two-person job. Have a lid handy. One person scoops the frogs into the container while the other quickly opens and closes the lid. Frogs often pee when they are scared! Try going out on a frog hunt at night, when frogs are most active. If you bring a flashlight and shine it in their eyes, they will be stunned like a deer in headlights. This will make them easier to catch. Also, it may be useful to know that frogs cannot turn their heads to see behind them. If you have or live near kids, consider paying them to come over in the evenings to catch frogs for you. Pay them per frog. This will make the work go faster and easier! Once you have them all collected into a closed container, you can drive them to a pond or lake and release them. How to Kill Frogs Freeze them. Use a frog gig or spear to catch and kill frogs. Head out into your yard at night when frogs are most active. Shine a flashlight to find them and shine it in their eyes. This stuns the frogs and makes them easier to gig. Spread or spray salt. Frogs die when they are dehydrated. Make a mixture of salt and water and spray frogs directly or spread salt around the area where they live. Be careful of plants, however. Salt can also cause plants to turn brown and die. Citrus acid seems to help. Products for numbing the mouth generally contain Benzocaine. If you can catch the frogs, dab a little on the head to kill them! Shooting frogs is not legal everywhere and may require a fishing license. If you decide to shoot the frogs in your yard, a pellet rifle or BB gun should be sufficient. Frog eggs clump together in water. Be sure to scoop them all out and leave them out to dry. Prevent Them From Reproducing You will want to make sure to eliminate future generations of frogs, too. Use your net to gather any tadpoles from the bottom of your pool or pond. If you leave them out on the

dry ground, they will die as they dry out. Scoop out the eggs. Make sure to scoop out any egg masses, too. The eggs will be clumped together in a jelly-like blob. These can be left out to dry and die, as well. If the eggs are clumped in more of a string-shaped form, then you have toads, not frogs. Make sure to scoop out any tadpoles. These will die if laid out on the dry ground. I caught them and relocated them. I dabbed them with Orajel. I drained my pool and they went away. I shot them with a BB gun. See results As much as you might want to exterminate them, some species are protected by law.

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was tilling in my fall leaves yesterday, almost got a toad. Scooped him up with rake and took over by creek. Wouldve left him in garden, but didnt want a repeat performance.

Email I bet you are asking yourself why in the world you want to attract toads to the garden, right? If you love growing your own food, you really need to keep reading to find out! We have a TON of toads in the garden and I am thrilled that they call my back yard home. Toads eat garden pests like the dreaded hornworm caterpillar and squash beetles that like to attack my garden. Learn how to attract toads and you will have significantly fewer garden pests! But, can you just stick out a toad house with a for rent sign and hope they show up? I remember a day not too long ago that my teenage son was mowing the back lawn. I listened to the sound of the mower running for a few minutes, then it would stop. A few minutes it would start again and run for a bit and then stop again. I wondered if maybe he was having lawn mower trouble and went outside to check on him. Turns out, every few feet he had to stop and rescue a baby toad as it tried to hop away from the mower. My poor kid spent an hour mowing a small patch of grass and probably rescued a dozen toads as he worked. Are toads beneficial to a garden? So, first off, lets answer the question of WHY you want to attract toads to the garden. Because what do garden toads eat? Bugs are a gardeners worst nightmare and toads like to eat them. So, the more toads you have in your yard, the less garden pests you will have to deal with. Sounds like a great plan to me! Attracting toads is very beneficial because they eat slugs and snails, too. So, how do you attract toads to the garden? Here are a few simple tips. Here is what you need to do: Provide toad houses for them to live in: Lots of things like to eat toads and they are naturally very cautious creatures. Provide plenty of foliage for them to hide under to stay out of site. A rock wall that is loosely stacked allows them nice places to hide. You can also check out these toad houses on Pinterest and make one yourself! Keep things moist for happy garden toads: Toads are amphibians and need to stay moist. We have an outdoor pond that they LOVE and we see plenty of tadpoles in there. Toads make their homes under boards, porches, loose rocks and roots of trees. To encourage future generations, however, consider adding a backyard pond. As long as the babies are happy and healthy, they should stick close to home when they grow up. That means, in a few years, you will have TONS of garden toads in your yard! Other gardening tips you might like:

Chapter 9 : Ask Away Blog: So There's A Toad in Your Garden [Some Basic Info About Toads]

Toads are actually welcome additions to the garden, but not everyone wants them, especially if their numbers become impossible to manage. This article will help with ridding toads from the garden should this occur.

They were not poisonous frogs and never bothered me. I actually quite liked them and they were not a problem for me. But some people find frogs problematic if there are too many of them. So in this article I am going to explain how to get rid of frogs and how to use frog repellents to keep frogs away. A Word About Poisonous Frogs Some frogs or toads can also be poisonous and their venom is highly toxic to pets. Dogs and cats are probably most likely to come into contact with a poisonous frogs, and that venom can cause serious problems. So how can you get rid of frogs naturally without using chemicals that can harm your kids, pets or the environment? Well, controlling the variables of frog habitat is crucial in getting rid of frogs, and there are other extra measurements like natural frog repellents that you can take to deter frogs from your property. How to Get Rid of Frogs by Controlling Their Habitat Did you know that the easiest way to keep frogs away from your garden is to take their food and shelter? Here are a number of ideas that will make your garden less attractive to frogs. Drain standing water in your garden Frogs are amphibian creatures, which means that they live on both dry land and in water. So if your garden has a water source that is stagnant, such as a pond or water for birds or other animals, you will need to remove these water sources from your garden. This will encourage most frogs to find another place to lay their eggs and seek shelter at night. Removing stagnant water sources will also repel mosquitoes and other insects that are used as food sources for frogs, making your garden even less attractive. Advertisement If you have water features in your garden that you still want to keep, such as a pond, add a fountain to circulate the water so it will attract less mosquitoes and other insects and decrease food supply for the frogs. Or you can surround the pond with mesh netting which starts at ground level and is tall enough to prevent the frogs from leaping over it. Mow the lawn and remove weeds and debris from your garden Frogs like to hide in areas where there are tall grass, piles of leaves, shrubs, clutter, pet food or any other environment that can create a damp hiding place for them. Removing all these will move the frogs away as they will feel more exposed, which is something they try to avoid. De-cluttering your garden will also reduce insects, keep the area dry so the frogs are more likely to find another place. Keeping the lawn short is also one of the best natural ways to repel snakes. Keep your garden dark at night Since outside lighting attracts insects, which are the primary food source of frogs, it is recommended to turn off outdoor lights, deck or porch light, as well as closing curtains in your home at night to reduce insect population which will in turn move away the frogs. For best results, use the following natural frog repellents but remember to also create less attractive habitat for frogs as well. Advertisement Spreading salt Spreading salt near the entrances of your home or around your pond deters frogs, as the salt creates an unpleasant feeling in their feet and skin. If you use this method, take care not to spread the salt near plants, as it will destroy them. Spreading coffee grounds Similarly to salt, spreading coffee grounds will cause the frogs discomfort and will deter them from areas where they gather. You can also use the coffee grounds to get rid of ants. Advertisement Unlike salt, coffee is often used as a plant fertilizer as it contains nitrogen which is an important component for growing plants. Use vinegar or lemon juice Vinegar has a lot of household uses and you can also use it to deter frogs. Here is a recipe for a vinegar spray that can help you to deter frogs: Common signs that your pet has come in contact with a poisonous toad are foaming at the mouth, fever, diarrhea, vomiting, walking unsteadily, weakness or collapse, irritation to the eyes and nose and difficulty in breathing. Read my other related articles: