

# Attract Amphibians & Reptiles

<https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Wildlife/Attracting-Amphibians>

Adapted from of the National Wildlife Federation

- **Protect existing habitat** - Help preserve habitat for amphibians in your neighborhood by educating others about the importance of protecting existing natural surroundings, such as woodlands and wetlands, and how to keep your watershed healthy. (See our Watersheds & Streams module)
- **Landscape to Create a Pond** - backyard ponds and marshes are great at preserving biodiversity while providing entertainment for the whole family - watching, listening, and even monitoring frog populations (Check out Frogwatch USA) Even with a frog and toad pond, they rarely attract mosquitoes because the amphibians eat them! There are many online resources for backyard pond construction
- **PVC for Tree Frogs** - Bury or drive a piece of PVC pipe (~ 5 feet long) into the ground so that at least 2 ½ feet of pipe is exposed above ground. Place pipe within a foot of a tree
- **Create a Rock or Brush Pile** - Backyard rock and brush piles can attract a variety of reptiles and amphibians, such as skinks, snakes, toads and salamanders. Stack rocks loosely near vegetation in a sunny location (preferably) to provide spaces for critters to hide as well as places for them to warm. Place logs in damp areas of your backyard to attract salamanders.
- **Plant native vegetation** - Thick beds of ferns and other small to medium sized shrubs are ideal places for lizards, snakes, toads and frogs to hide
- **DIY Toad Abode** - use an old clay pot or other similarly-shaped plastic container to create your own toad house to encourage toads to take up residence in your backyard. A cracked/split pot is ideal since it already has a doorway. You can also lay the pot horizontally on the ground and bury the lower half in the soil - to create a cave like home or set the pot upside on a circle of rocks. By removing a few rocks, you create an entryway. Decorate with washable paint (which will stick to clay best)
- **Place** in a spot with some shade, near water, preferably under shrubs or bushes
- **Watch!** Keep a lookout for invasive species - use [USDA Maryland Invasive Species](#) for multiple programs to help identify and possibly remove invasive species