

Species of the Month

February — Frogs and Spawn



Conservation Communities - Torrington to Hatherleigh

Help build up a picture of the wildlife in our area by telling

Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (www.dbrc.org.uk) about the species you have seen.



Frog or Toad

- Smooth skin
- A dark 'mask' behind the eye
- Long back legs, with dark bands
- Hops and jump
- Lays spawn in jelly-like clumps in shallow puddles or ponds. Spawn expands after it is laid and floats, forming a large mat of merged clumps.

- Olive-brown, warty skin
- Copper eyes
- Short back legs
- Walks rather than hops
- Lays its spawn in long strings around aquatic plants, with two rows of eggs per string. They breed in large, deep ponds.

You might think it's still a bit cold for frogs and toads, but frogspawn starts appearing in February. In fact, where it's been mild here in Devon, you may have even spotted some in January! Frogs and toads can be hard to spot as adults, so getting records of spawn is a great way of knowing where they are.

Did you know?

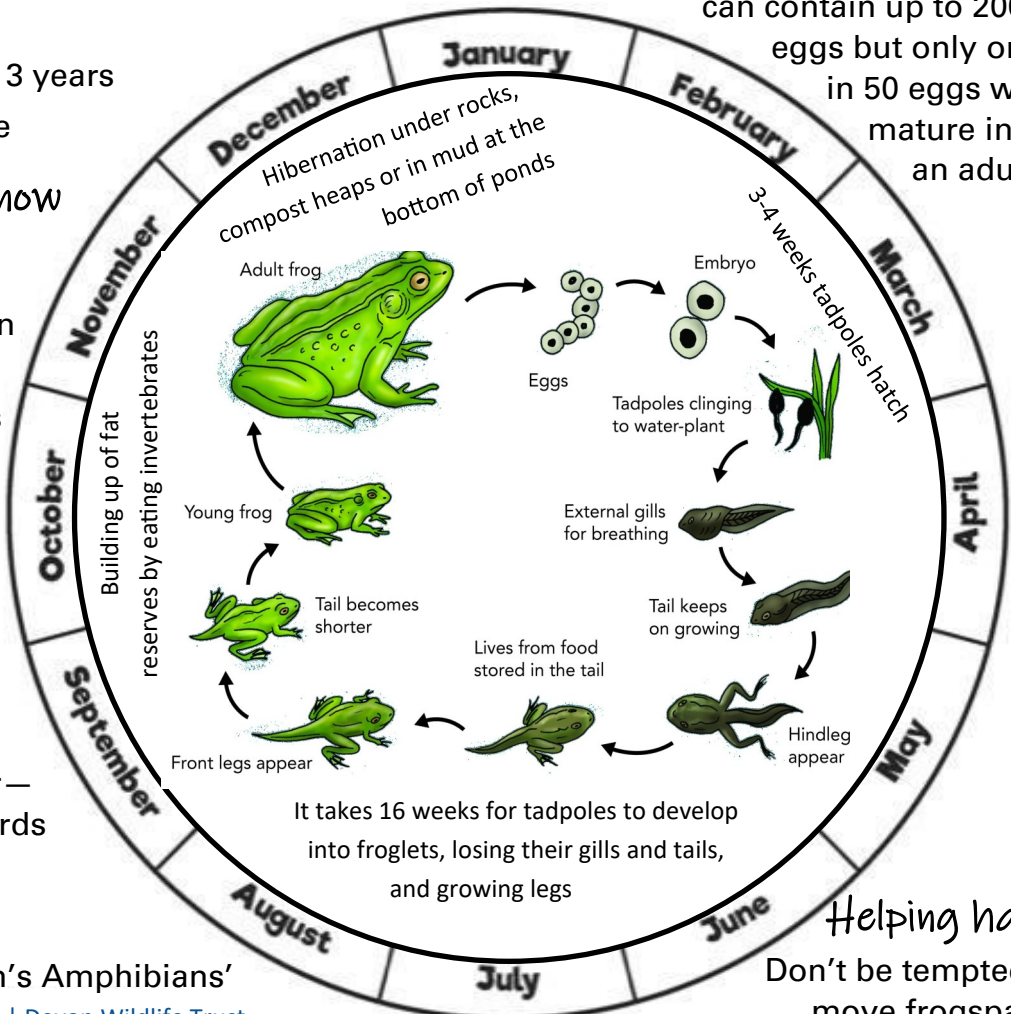
One clump of frogspawn can contain up to 2000 eggs but only one in 50 eggs will mature into an adult.

Did you know? It takes 3 years for frogs to reach full size

Why DBRC need to know about amphibians in this area: The common frog is not necessarily common - in many areas they have disappeared due to agricultural pesticides, draining of wetland habitats and filling-in of small ponds. DBRC has very few records of amphibians in this area but we suspect there are a good number— help us to put these records right.

To find out more:

Watch 'Identifying Devon's Amphibians' Conservation Communities Project | Devon Wildlife Trust



Helping hand:

Don't be tempted to move frogspawn between ponds. This risks spreading disease.

