



Photo Lyn Thomson

Interesting Facts

The study of frogs is called **Herpetology**

Most rainforest frogs have pads of sticky hairs on their fingers and toes and loose sticky skin on their bellies, which make them great climbers helping them to escape their predators. Many of these frogs live in trees for safety.

The scientific name *caerulea* means 'blue', which was the colour of the specimen that arrived in London in 1790. The alcohol preservation may have altered the frog's true colour, fooling the early scientists.

Green Tree Frogs are sometimes called the "*The smiling croaker*."

Their life spans are longer than most of their frog cousins and can reach between 16 to 20 years in captivity. In the wild, their lives are shorter due to predators.

An amazing, less known fact about this frog is that its soft, green skin secretes compounds with antiviral and antibacterial properties.

Did you know that a group of frogs is called an 'army'? (A group of toads is called a 'knot'.)

Frogs don't drink water they absorb it through their skin.

Create a frog-friendly Garden for your local frog species

- It's important if you want to set up a frog habitat that you make sure your family will not use any chemicals to spray the garden where the frogs live.
- Frogs have many predators, such as birds, snakes, cats, dogs and Cane Toads. So keep this in mind. For example if you decide to put both a bird bath and a frog pond in your backyard, make sure to place them in different areas not to close together remembering birds are predators of frogs.
- Frogs are nocturnal therefore try to keep your dog and cat inside or in the garage at night.
- Don't leave dog/cat food or water outside where frogs (or toads) have access to it. Frogs might be attracted to the water bowl and then be hurt by the dog or cat.
- Toads are ground dwellers, while Green Tree Frogs like to climb which helps to protect them from predators. Their green colouring helps them to blend into the vegetation; whereas toads being brown blend in with the soil and garden mulch.



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Setting up your Frog Friendly Garden

Remember that most Native Frogs prefer cool dark places, so find an area in your garden that is shady.

When setting up your frog habitat it's a great idea to add at least one or two solar lights as these will attract bugs at night when the frogs are looking for food. Plant some frog attracting foliage such as Bird Nest plants, Tree Ferns, Stagorns, and Elkhorns.



Make sure that the frogs have access to water. There are many ways to install water into your frog habit. You can utilize many containers; try to recycle unused things such as old baths, sinks, laundry tubs and unused bird baths. Remember if you use a bird bath to put a water plant in it as this will deter the birds and give the tadpoles and frogs somewhere to hide.



Try making a Frog Hotel

You can make it from recycled or new PVC pipe. Cut holes in 3 pipes and join them together using smaller pipes. Remember to make it 60cm or taller keeping it away from any Cane Toads. You can put in single pipes but the frogs prefer having a few places to hide. They like the smooth surface, their sticky toes suck onto it enabling them to climb to the top and enter the pipe. Finally you can paint it green to blend into your garden.



They venture out of the Frog Hotel at night.

