Wood Frog Egg Mass

Each female lays a single egg mass which contains 800 to 1000 eggs.

Surface of mass is lumpy in appearance and lacks outer coating of jelly.

Wood Frog Egg Masses

Egg masses may look like bubbles at the water surface.

Often attached to vegetation, wood frog egg masses may be deposited in large rafts.

Wood Frog Egg Masses

There may be multiple layers of egg masses below those visible at the water surface.

Some masses may be deposited on or have fallen to the pool bottom.

Design and layout:
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Often seen in pool shallows, wood frog tadpoles are small, dark, and numerous.

Large, chunky bull frog and green frog tadpoles usually over winter in permanent bodies of water. No additional tadpoles are in pools in the early spring when wood frogs hatch.

Male salamanders deposit their sperm in jelly capsules on leaf litter and submerged sticks. Spermatophores look like small white paint flecks on the pool bottom.

Each female may lay 1 to 3 egg masses. Egg masses are often attached to submerged vegetation. Genetic variation determines whether the outer jelly of a spotted salamander egg mass is clear or cloudy. Green egg masses contain algae that provide oxygen to the egg mass and in turn gain nutrients from the developing embryos.

Spotted Salamander Egg Masses

Spotted Salamander Egg Mass

Spotted Salamander

Spermatophores

Bull Frog and Green Frog Tadpoles

Wood Frog Tadpoles

Spotted Salamander Tadpoles
Blue-Spotted Salamander

Dark slender body with bright blue spots

Blue-Spotted Salamander Egg Mass

Egg masses are difficult to see below the water surface and may not be visible without gently lifting submerged vegetation

Drippy, transparent jelly surrounds each mass

Blue-Spotted Salamander Egg Masses

Blue-spotted eggs may be deposited individually on the pool bottom or in small clusters along submerged sticks

Jefferson Salamander

Grayish brown in color, with long slender toes and a rounded snout, these salamanders tend to be larger than Blue-spotted salamanders

Jefferson Salamander Egg Masses

Often brownish-grey and larger bodied than blue-spotted salamanders, blue-spotted/Jefferson hybrids have varying amounts of light blue flecking

Outer jelly is less firm than spotted salamander masses, but not as loose and drippy as is typical of blue-spotted masses

Egg masses tend to be smaller than those laid by spotted salamanders

Attached to submerged vegetation masses are often tubular in shape

Hybrid Blue-Spotted Salamander
Hybrid Blue-Spotted Salamander Egg Masses

Often containing white infertile embryos, hybrid egg masses may be deposited in long strings of “pearls” along submerged vegetation.

Fairy Shrimp

These crustaceans are often seen swimming around on their backs in the sunny shallows of a pool.

Up to an inch in length, and often orange to tan in color, these animals may blend in with leaf litter on the bottom of pools.

Mosquitoes

Up to half an inch in length, pupating mosquitoes are sometimes mistaken for fairy shrimp.

Photos by Dawn Morgan, Aram Calhoun, Kevin Ryan, and Steve Faccio.