

Treefrog Conservation in Your Back Yard

Invasive Cuban treefrogs are causing the decline of our native treefrogs, especially in urbanized areas. Their tadpoles outcompete native species, and can cause the natives to develop more slowly or use up all of the resources the natives need to survive. After the native frogs metamorphose from tadpoles into frog form, they are eaten by the much larger, invasive Cuban treefrogs. However, citizen reports suggest that removing the non-native frogs may help the native species to return to your back yard! For more information on how you can help the University of Florida to learn more about Cuban Treefrogs and conserve native species in your back yard, visit our citizen scientist web page at:

http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/citizen_sci.shtml



Cuban Treefrogs compete with native tadpoles and prey on native frogs, like this unfortunate Green Treefrog.

Photo by Brent Anderson www.banature.com

Treefrog Research at UFIFAS Plant City

Dr. Steve A. Johnson is an Assistant Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, and teaches classes in the Natural Resource Conservation degree program at the IFAS Plant City Center. Dr. Johnson and Monica McGarrity, a biological scientist, are studying the ecology, impacts, and management of invasive Cuban Treefrogs. For more information, visit our website at:

<http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu>

Treefrog Information

For more information about Florida's treefrogs and other frogs, visit our web site at <http://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu> and follow the link on the left to Florida's Frogs. These pages will be updated soon to include all 27 species + 3 invaders!

You should also read:

How to Make a Treefrog House
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw308>

The Cuban Treefrog in Florida
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw259>

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Native Treefrogs and the Florida-Friendly Gardener



**Dr. Steve A. Johnson
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Treefrogs in the Garden...

Florida is home to seven species of native treefrogs, several of which you might encounter in your yard. All frogs (including toads) play important roles in Florida's environment. Our native treefrogs eat a wide variety of insects and other invertebrates, including spiders, beetles, and cockroaches. Treefrogs and their eggs and tadpoles are also an important source of food for other wildlife. You may find treefrogs on plants in your garden or around windows and lights on the exterior of your home. You can also easily make and install "treefrog houses" to attract and observe treefrogs in your garden. For more information, see the resources on the back of this brochure.



Photo by Steve A. Johnson

Green Treefrog

The Green Treefrog is often seen in suburban gardens. This long, thin frog is usually green, and has bold white stripes with dark borders down each side of its body. Green Treefrogs can grow to about 2.5 inches long.



Native Green Treefrog
(*Hyla cinerea*)

Photo by Steve A. Johnson

Squirrel Treefrog

Squirrel Treefrogs are also commonly seen in suburban gardens. The Squirrel Treefrog is small, usually less than 1.5 inches long. Squirrel Treefrogs may be green, gray, or brown, and may be solid-colored or have splotches on their backs. To see photos showing this variation, visit our website (see Treefrog Information on the back of the brochure).



Native Squirrel Treefrog
(*Hyla squirella*)

Photo by Steve A. Johnson

Pine Woods Treefrog

Pine Woods Treefrogs are less frequently encountered in highly urbanized areas. Like Squirrel Treefrogs, Pine Woods Treefrogs have short, rounded bodies that grow to a maximum length of 1.5 inches. Their bodies are usually grayish tan, but can also be green and may be marked with splotches. Their faces usually have a "bandit mask," as shown in the photo, and they have obvious yellowish spots on the hidden surface of the hind leg. To check for these spots, you would need to capture a frog and gently extend its hind leg. To see photos of these spots, visit our website (see Treefrog Information on the back of the brochure).



Native Pine Woods Treefrog
(*Hyla femoralis*)

Photo by Steve A. Johnson

Barking Treefrog

Barking Treefrogs are rarely found in urbanized areas but may be found on and around homes near natural areas. Their bodies may be gray, brown, or green, usually with obvious dark spots. Their skin is slightly bumpy all over — like they have goose bumps! Barking Treefrogs are our largest native species, have chunky bodies, and may grow to 2.75 inches long.



Native Barking Treefrog
(*Hyla gratiosa*)

Photo by Dr. Michael Andreu

Cuban Treefrog

Unfortunately, Florida is also home to a non-native invader — the Cuban Treefrog. These large frogs can grow much larger than any native species, have large "bug eyes," large toe pads, and warty-looking skin. Their skin secretions can irritate your eyes and nose, so don't handle them with bare hands! These



Invasive Cuban Treefrog
(*Osteopilus septentrionalis*)

Photo by Steve A. Johnson

frogs have replaced our native treefrogs in many urbanized areas, and have become a huge pest to humans. They breed in any standing water, laying eggs in a surface film on the water. (See the reverse side for more information)