

If you are fortunate to live near a preserve, wooded area, or pond, you have been treated to the night song of hundreds of croaking frogs, along with other night creatures. The sound can start off as a slow, steady concert that ends up with a crescendo ... and then silence. You are not alone!

There are many wonderful native frogs found in Florida that have important benefits to our natural ecosystem. Frogs help control garden pests, such as insects and slugs. They also serve as a food source for many larger wildlife species. Plus, frogs have been essential to several medical advances that help humans. New painkillers and antibiotics have been created due to research on the substances frogs secrete through their skin. Let's learn about some common frogs you might see in your yard.

Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*)

As their name suggests, treefrogs are well adapted to life in an arboreal environment. Their toes have adhesive disks so they can climb on bark or twigs.

Size: Usually 1 to 2.5 in. – small

Color: Green treefrogs are usually bright green, but its color may vary to yellow, dull green, or slate grey when it is hidden or inactive. A yellow or white stripe may extend farther along the body on one side than on the other, or lacking entirely.



Florida Cricket Frog (*Acris gryllus dorsalis*)

Size: Small, adults are 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches in length.

Color: This frog varies in color from dark brown to tan or green. Cricket Frogs are easily identifiable by a triangular mark just behind the head and between the eyes. A distinct stripe is often, but not always, present along its spine.

Sound: They sound like marbles clicking together – starting with two clicks and then speed up.

Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*)

Danger lurks in your yard - a large invasive exotic (non-native) species. **Cuban Treefrogs** are voracious eaters -- and unfortunately eat native frogs, toads, and lizards. They reproduce faster than Florida's native frogs, and can overwhelm & out-number other frogs in a pond or yard.

Perhaps you've been surprised by a large frog in the toilet – quite likely a Cuban Treefrog. In our house, they only seem to visit when we have guests – it makes for a memorable visit.

While Cuban Treefrogs are not known to be poisonous to humans or small animals, secretions from their skin can be very irritating to your skin and eyes, so wash your hands if you handle one.



Size: Cuban Treefrogs range are large – typically 2 to 5" in length (body only, not including legs).

Color: Their color can vary, but Cuban Treefrogs are often brownish-yellow, light greenish to beige. Often they do not have bold markings, yet sometimes subtle marks. The skin on their backs is usually bumpy, like that of a toad. They have very large toe pads, for their size and relative to native species. They can resemble some of Florida's native species, especially when they are small, so it is easy to misidentify native species as Cuban Treefrogs. Be aware to be prepared.

[Learn more here: https://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/cuban_treefrog_inFL.shtml]

(Frog images: UF/IFAS)