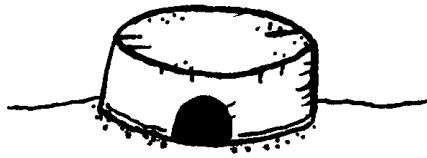


Garden Pests and Problems: Toad Town

One of the best ways to keep insects out of your garden is to invite their enemies into the garden. Ladybugs, praying mantis, bats, and birds all have big appetites for insects. Toads also like to eat insects. If you give toads a place to stay and water to drink, they will be happy to live in your garden and eat many, many insects.



To make a “Toad House” you will need a small, plastic container (such as a small margarine container). **Cut** a 4-inch opening in the side of a container, and **place it** upside down in a shady part of your garden. Toads like to stay in cool, dark places, and this house will make the toads feel welcome.

To **make** a “Toad Pond” you will need another small, plastic container. Dig a hole next to the Toad House and put the second container in it right-side-up. Pack the soil around the outer edges but do not fill the container with soil. Now **fill** this container with water.



Toads need plenty of water and this little pond will do the trick. Make sure you **check it** often, and **refill it** when needed.

In many gardens, a toad will find its own way to your Toad House and make itself at home. Some of you may need to go out and find a toad for your Toad House. **Look** for toads in cool, shady places. Make sure an adult is with you if you look for toads in a cool, wooded area or alongside a brook or stream.

Research

Where will you make your toad house? _____

Can you find out how many bugs one toad can eat in a day? _____

Can you find out if toads have a favorite insect to eat? _____

Are there insects they do not like to eat? _____

Try looking in a book on toads or on the Internet.