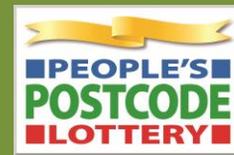


Newts in your garden



Newts can often be found in gardens and are easily distinguishable from lizards by their slow movements, soft skin and preference for damp areas e.g. under logs. If you have a garden pond or are near other ponds, you may be lucky enough to see them in your garden. This is our mini guide to identifying any newts you may find.



©Fred Holmes

Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

The Great Crested Newt is the largest newt species in the UK, with the largest females reaching up to 15cm in length. They are the easiest to identify of the three native newt species, due to their large size and dark colouration.

Great Crested Newts are black in colour, with 'warty' skin and a bright yellow or orange and black spotty belly. In the breeding season (March-May), males develop the large crest that gives them their name. Males also have a white 'flash' on their tail which separates them from females.

Great Crested Newts are declining and so are protected by European law.



©Joy Russell

Palmate Newt (*Lissotriton helveticus*) and Smooth/ Common Newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*)

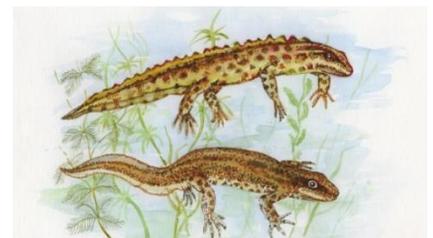
The two smaller newt species reach a maximum size of 10cm and are a paler brown in colour than the Great Crested Newt at all life stages.

The females are very difficult to tell apart, even for experts, as are the males when not in breeding season.

However, in breeding season, male Palmate Newts grow black 'gloves' on their hind feet, as shown in the photo. Smooth Newts develop a wavy crest along the back, which is unbroken, unlike the Great Crested Newt crest, which has a break at the base of the tail.



Male Palmate Newt ©Rose Revera



Male and female Smooth Newts ©Jeremy Wyatt

Habitat Requirements

Newts require both aquatic habitat for breeding and terrestrial habitat for the rest of the year when they are on land. This includes areas of long grass, log and rock piles and scrubby areas.

Find out more about how you can help your local newts by contacting us on 01656 724100 or r.revera@welshwildlife.org.



My Wild Cardiff

#MyWildCardiff

Dig a pond for
wildlife in your
garden this year

Email info@welshwildlife.org or ring 01656
724100 to find out more



As part of the My Wild Cardiff project, the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales has a limited number of FREE garden ponds to give to houses in the Heath Park area.

If you are interested in having one of these free ponds, please contact Rose on the contact details below:

r.revera@welshwildlife.org

01656 724100

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales
The Nature Centre, Fountain Road, Tondy, Bridgend
CF32 0EH

