

Not another slug in the garden! If only there was something less disgusting than hand picking them off my cabbage leaves. Oh wait, there is... the garden toad, also known as the American toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*) and the Fowler's toad (*Anaxyrus fowleri*).

These creatures are primarily nocturnal. If you don't see any in your garden, try searching at night or after a heavy rain. Toads also feast on other invertebrates like insects, worms and spiders, and use their sticky tongue to catch their prey. One toad can eat about 100 bugs per night!

The American and Fowler's are Ontario's only two species of toad, and can be distinguished by the number of bumps on their back and colour of belly. In all likelihood, you've probably spotted the American toad as



it is common, whereas the Fowler is endangered, and lives on sandy shores and in and amongst dunes.

Toads love an area with moist soil and vegetation where they can find shelter and food. They might even grace your front lawn, meadows, woodlands, and shores of ponds, lakes, and streams.

If after all of this you want to attract toads to your garden, then build a toad house by using upside down pots, home-made small rock caves, and logs, placed in a quiet area with lots of shade.

For more information, visit [www.localgardener.net/toads/](http://www.localgardener.net/toads/)