



## Home Garden Tips

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## Welcome Toads into Your Garden

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TOADS are great insect control for your garden! They will gulp just about anything that crawls or flies and only ask for shelter and access to water. Additionally, toads, just like frogs, are an indicator of our environment health.

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The favorite toad hang out is a moist cave-like set up. Toads prefer a still air area, so do not construct a shelter in a drafty zone. A great way to provide water is to place a concrete bird bath at ground level near the toad's desired residence. A friend of mine built a water garden on a slop of his back yard. He started with a pond at the very bottom and gradually worked his way up the slop making several water falls and smaller pools. During that project he made several toad "condos" which are now populated by toads and other critters.

Another way to create a toad habitat is to dig a hole near a water source, and with a broken clay flower pot, make a shelter using the dirt to cover the roof. Plant some low growing moisture-loving plants to provide ready shade zones around that potential toad home.

Toads keep good company and make the garden alive. (Remember toads are sensitive to pesticides -- if they ingest them, toads can get very sick and die!)

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