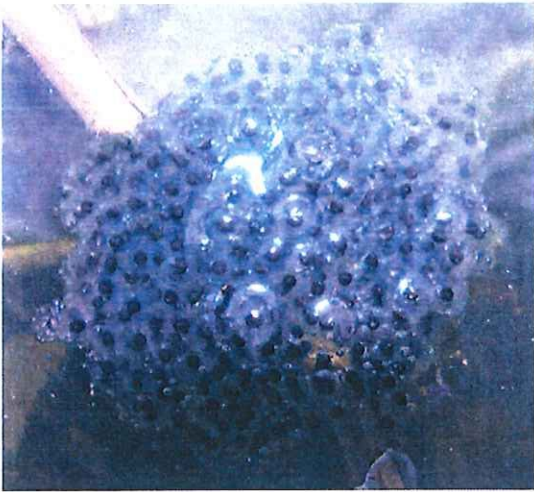


Vernal Pool-Breeding Amphibian Egg Mass Identification



Wood Frog

- Large number of individual eggs in mass (1,000-1,500 or more).
- No gelatinous envelope surrounding the mass
- Blue/black coloration to the mass. May turn greenish with algae as they age.
- Individual masses deposited in large communal raft connected together and often several feet in length and width.
- Often located in sunny areas of pool just below the surface of the water.



"Raft" of wood frog eggs



Older wood frog eggs with algae



Spotted salamander

- Tennis ball size with 100-200 eggs per mass.
- Distinct gelatinous envelope surrounding the mass. The envelope is firm to the touch. Often “kidney” shaped.
- May appear clear, or milky white and opaque. May turn greenish with algae as they age.
- Usually attached to branches and 8” or more below the surface of the water.
- Wide space between each egg (the black spot) and the edge of the jelly envelope surrounding it.



Older spotted salamander egg masses



Opaque and clear spotted salamander egg masses



Jefferson salamander



Blue-spotted salamander

- Elongated “sausage” shape or small “hen’s egg” size masses.
- Small number of eggs in mass (10-30)
- Distinct clear gelatinous envelope surrounding the mass.
- “Pearl-like” in appearance dead eggs usually prevalent and distinct in the mass.
- Usually attached to branches and 8” or more below the surface of the water.
- Narrow space between each egg (the black spot) and the edge of the jelly envelope surrounding it.