NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG

Lithobates pipiens

The body of the northern leopard frog can be green or brown. The frog has large, circular spots with light edged spots. It has prominent light-coloured dorsolateral ridges, which is the fold of skin beginning behind the eye and continuing to the rear legs on both sides. These frogs have a white stomach. Northern leopard frog adults usually grow to be about 5-8 cm long. The largest leopard frogs have been known to grow up to 13 cm, but this is rare.

In Eastern Canada the northern leopard frog is most similar to the pickerel frog. Pickerel frogs have square shaped spots, a yellow belly and always have a brown body colour.

HABITAT

Leopard frogs can be found in a wide range of habitats from permanent ponds to swamps, marshes, slow moving streams, forested or open areas and urban settings.

They are often found quite far away from water.

During the winter months they hibernate on the bottom of water bodies that don't freeze.

DIET

Leopard frog tadpoles eat plants, algae and the remains of invertebrates and other tadpoles.

Adults eat almost anything they can catch including insects, other invertebrates and sometimes mice or fish.

NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG
Lithobates pipiens

LIFE CYCLE: BREEDING

Northern Leopard Frog breeding occurs in mid to late spring.

Males arrive at the breeding ponds first and call while floating on the surface of the water.

Egg masses are attached to submerged vegetation.

Females can lay up to 7000 eggs but generally lay half this number.

Eggs are approximately 1.5 mm in diameter and hatch into tadpoles in 1-3 weeks (mid to late summer) depending on the air and water temperature.

By early August the tadpoles turn into adult frogs.

FROG CALL

The males call is a low snore followed by several low grunts, which does not carry far.

The sound is similar to a finger rubbed on a wet balloon.

The call is similar to a Pickerel frog but more complex.

For more information visit:
www.charlottetown.ca