

# SPECTATOR

May 2020

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CYPRESS CREEK LAKES

Volume 9, Issue 5



**CHICK-FIL-A, TOWNE LAKE, TOOK 287 SANDWICHES IN THE MORNING AND 87 SANDWICHES IN THE EVENING TO MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL ON APRIL 6TH TO THANK THE STAFF FOR ALL THEY ARE DOING TO KEEP US SAFE.**

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North Cypress Medical Center.....	832.912.3500

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### Ocean Animal Word Search

Help Ollie the Octopus find the words listed below in the puzzle & circle them.

C	Z	V	U	H	F	H	S	H	A	R	K	J	I	N
A	Z	W	G	Z	S	S	I	C	I	O	A	T	T	M
N	E	E	H	L	C	I	L	T	U	Q	L	F	D	U
E	T	V	K	P	F	F	F	B	A	R	C	S	C	T
M	H	O	B	E	F	R	Y	V	G	D	U	G	W	G
O	T	J	B	K	A	A	N	I	G	P	R	I	W	B
N	J	G	A	O	R	T	I	I	O	A	H	V	K	D
E	J	O	U	G	I	S	P	T	H	S	E	A	J	F
S	D	B	N	L	X	X	C	M	I	P	I	O	G	A
Z	X	I	B	O	G	O	Q	F	Q	E	L	E	E	C
S	T	H	A	B	X	Z	Y	A	Q	L	L	O	L	X
S	B	V	I	S	H	L	C	E	E	R	N	A	D	L
L	Y	M	H	T	L	P	T	O	R	K	M	M	H	U
T	K	G	G	E	F	T	H	S	Q	U	I	D	Q	W
X	F	N	J	R	T	U	R	T	L	E	O	S	L	V

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## IS IT A FROG OR A TOAD? How to tell the difference

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Did you know there are 30 different species of frogs and toads in Texas? The problem I have, however, is telling the difference between a frog and a toad. Can you tell the difference?

First, let's explore the similarities. Both frogs and toads are members of the amphibian class. Both have short bodies, two hind legs, two front arms and a wide head. Both frogs and toads are carnivorous and eat worms, insects, slugs, spiders and small fish. Toads may also eat dog food left outside. They catch their prey with their long, sticky tongues. Females lay their eggs close to water or actually in the water and the males fertilize them.

### DIFFERENCES:

- If you look at the hind legs, you'll notice the frog has very long legs. They need longer legs because they hop more and higher than toads. Toads tend to crawl more. They can hop but they can't hop very high or very far.
- The frog spends most of its time in the water so it has webbed back feet. Sometimes the front feet are webbed as well.
- Toads have a chubbier appearance than frogs.
- The skin of the frog is much smoother. A toad's skin will be bumpy and the bumps resemble warts.
- The coloring between frogs and toads is different. Frogs are a bright green or a yellow-olive in color. Toads are a dark green to an olive green in color. Make sure you don't rely solely on coloring when trying to identify an animal though because there are some brownish green frogs.
- Frogs spend the majority of their time near water and rarely venture very far away from a water source.

During breeding season, frogs can be incredibly noisy. If you have security lights around your home, these lights will attract insects which will in turn attract frogs who want to eat them. If the noise bothers you, turn out the lights.

If you have pets, don't allow them to play with toads. When toads are threatened or bitten, they use the same defense mechanism as a skunk. The skin lets out a bitter taste and odor

that burns the eyes and nostrils. It is highly toxic to pets and can cause death if left untreated. Humans, however, are not affected by a toad's toxin. If your pet has been outside and you notice it pawing at its mouth or eyes, crying or whimpering, it may have encountered a toad. Other signs to look for:

- Excessive drooling
- Seizures
- Yellow vomit
- Diarrhea
- Dilated pupils
- Irregular heartbeat
- Foaming at the mouth
- Hyperthermia
- Collapse
- Difficulty breathing

If you think your pet has had an encounter with a toad, contact your veterinarian immediately.

For other helpful information, check out the blog on the TWRC Wildlife Center website. [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org)

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## Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

Crape myrtles are a popular landscape tree in parts of Texas, prized for their beauty. While this tree has been relatively maintenance free for years, that is no longer the case now that crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) has been found in Texas.

Crape myrtle bark scales are small, wingless insects, pinkish in color and covered with a white, velvety covering. When you look at the bark of an infested tree, look for round to oval shaped white velvety insects. If you puncture one with a toothpick, it will exude a pink substance.



When inspecting crape myrtles for CMBS, look along trunks, limbs, as well as smaller twigs and branches found towards the top of the tree. You'll want to look for scale insects and sooty mold. Sooty mold is a black colored fungus that grows on honeydew; honeydew is an excretion from scale insects (and other small, soft-bodied insects such as aphids and mealybugs).

Heavily infested crape myrtles have CMBS that produce copious amounts of honeydew on the tree and surrounding area which leads to growth of sooty mold, turning landscape plants black. Infested crape myrtles produce fewer and smaller blooms which may be difficult to tell unless you have an uninfested tree to compare.

Only male crape myrtle bark scales fly. Others are dispersed by wind, birds, other insects, or landscape maintenance equipment to nearby areas. Long-distance transport occurs via infested material. Once CMBS are in an area, they can move onto to nearby trees.

Control options are varied for CMBS. There are lady bugs that eat CMBS, but this may take time for control as the ladybug population is tied to the population of insects they feed upon. Ensure that if you buy and plant crape myrtles, that you inspect them and not plant any infested trees, or you select a different species of tree or shrub for the landscape.

Pesticide treatment for crape myrtle bark scale can be done with either a contact spray or a systemic. Studies from TAMU discovered that contact sprays should be used when pest numbers are peaking (crawler/ nymph numbers peak mid-April through May), and two treatments should be done with the second treatment taking place 2 weeks after the initial treatment. Insecticides with bifenthrin as the active ingredient tend to work best.

Systemic treatments should be applied earlier, when the leaves are budding out. Systemics such as imidacloprid and dinotefuran are best used as a soil treatment in March so that they are taken up by the tree and in place for the crawler population in April-May. These products should be used when trees are NOT in bloom to protect pollinators.

For a video on how to treat crape myrtles for CMBS, you should go to this link:

<https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2018/08/28/how-to-treat-your-crapemyrtle-for-bark-scale/>

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

# Watermelon Salad

- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 1 lime, zested and juiced
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 4 cups seeded watermelon chunks
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/4 cup mint chiffonade
- 2 cups baby arugula

### Directions:

Add the white wine vinegar, lime zest and juice to a small bowl. Whisk in the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Add the thinly sliced red onion and let marinate for 5 to 10 minutes as you prepare the rest of the salad.

Add the watermelon, feta, mint, and arugula to a large bowl. Toss with the vinaigrette and serve immediately after dressing.

*Recipe courtesy of The Neelys, [www.foodnetwork.com](http://www.foodnetwork.com)*

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The club invites all interested competitive players from the ages of 7 to 19, to the Player Evaluations & Tryouts and to become part of our success. AHFC competitive evaluations will be in May\*\*. We ask that all interested players pre-register before coming out to the fields. Please visit [albionhurricanes.org](http://albionhurricanes.org) for details about your particular campus.

AHFC also offers JHSL (a recreational program for 5 - 10 year old) at our Cy Fair and Central locations and offers additional training at Katy Friday Night Academy as well at Thursday Night Academy for players in the New Territory area

Visit [albionhurricanes.org](http://albionhurricanes.org) to register and for times and dates.

\*\*\*Subject to change in accordance to League rules.

A black and white photograph of a healthcare worker, likely a nurse, wearing a surgical cap, a face shield, and a respirator mask. The worker is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is blurred, suggesting a clinical setting.

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