

Set 1: Newt Identification Cards - Aquatic Phases

Detailed photographs and descriptions of all the United Kingdoms native newt species in their aquatic phases

Also Available

Set 2 - Terrestrial Phases

Set 3 - Eggs and Larvae



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The ideal field guides for GCN licence holders, their agents and conservation volunteers.

Designed and produced by GCN Training Tel: 07943 723 935


Skin usually black/dark brown, granular, warty texture with small white spots around the head and flanks

The jagged breeding crest is up to 3cm in height, it lays flat against the male's back, if he is removed from water

The male's tail is flared with a white central stripe

Yellow/orange black blotched underbelly

Male Great Crested Newts can reach 14cm in length - Aquatic Phase March to June



No breeding crest

The female's tail has no white stripe

Between March and May, the female's belly is heavily swollen with eggs

Granular, warty skin, colour black/dark brown with small white spots, underbelly yellow/orange black blotched

Female Great Crested Newts can reach 18cm in length - Aquatic Phase March to June

Undulating breeding crest

Dark "Leopard" body spots

Line of broken colour along the bottom edge of the male's flared tail

Red underbelly with black spots, skin smooth to the touch with wide variations in colour

Splayed/feathered toes on hind feet

Male Smooth Newts can reach 9cm in length - Aquatic Phase March to June


Between March and June,
the female's belly is
swollen with eggs

No breeding crest or dark
upper body spots, skin
smooth, wide variations in
colour

Pale orange underbelly
normally freckled with
small dark spots that
extend up to the chin

The female's rear
toes are not splayed
the tail remains thin

Female Smooth Newts can reach 10cm in
length - Aquatic Phase March to June



The Male Palmate Newt's tail comes to a truncated end tipped with a black hair like filament

A parallel line of dark spots runs the length of the male's tail


The males hind feet are permanently webbed

The breeding crest is barely visible, 2 dorsal ridges give the males a boxy appearance.

Wide variations in colour, easily confused with the Smooth Newt

Pale cream/lemon underbelly, skin smooth to the touch

Male Palmate Newts can reach 7cm in length - Aquatic Phase March to June



Underbelly pale lemon/lightly speckled, skin smooth to the touch. Wide variations in colour, easily confused with the Smooth Newt

The underside of the female's chin is pinky white, translucent and usually unmarked

Between March and June the female's belly is swollen with eggs

The upper body and tail are heavily mottled

The rear feet are not webbed

Female Palmate Newts can reach 8cm
In length - Aquatic Phase March to June

Comparison

Female Palmate Newt

The female Palmates Newt chin has no spots



Female Smooth Newt

The female smooth newts chin is spotted

