

# IDENTIFICATION KEY: AQUATIC AMPHIBIAN EGGS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND AND THE GULF ISLANDS



Are the eggs small (diameter 1.5 mm) and black AND in long strings of jelly, which may be tangled together or amongst sticks or vegetation?



Are the eggs found singly, often attached to thin-stemmed plants or hidden in a folded leaf? AND, do they have a thin (less than egg diameter) jelly coat?



Are the eggs found singly or in a small (usually < 5 cm diameter), firm, globular or elongated cluster? AND, are individual eggs large (diameter  $\geq 2$  mm) surrounded by a thick jelly coat (>2 times egg diameter), making them appear widely spaced?



Are the eggs in a small (usually < 5 cm diameter), soft globular or elongated cluster? AND, are individual eggs small (diameter  $\leq 1.5$  mm) surrounded by a thin jelly coat (< 2 times egg diameter), making them appear closely packed?



Key developed by Kristiina Ovaska & produced by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy in partnership with British Columbia Ministry of Environment.

Are the eggs in a large ( $\geq 10$  cm diameter), firm, globular cluster, often attached to a stick or submerged vegetation? AND, are individual eggs within the cluster large ( $\geq 2$  mm diameter), surrounded by a thick jelly coat ( $> 2$  times egg diameter), making them appear widely spaced? *Green algae sometimes surround each egg* (see photo on left).



Are the eggs in a large ( $\geq 10$  cm diameter), loose, closely packed cluster, usually attached to vegetation or submerged debris, sometimes floating and spread out? Found in **EARLY SPRING**. *Green algae sometimes surround each egg*.



Are the eggs in a broad sheet of jelly floating on water surface, often over dense vegetation? AND is the egg mass **LESS THAN 30 CM** in diameter? Found in **EARLY – LATE SUMMER**.

Are the eggs in a broad sheet of jelly floating on the water surface over dense vegetation? AND is the egg mass **MORE THAN 30 CM** in diameter? Found in **EARLY – LATE SUMMER**.



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