UNITED STATES PHOTO SPECIES ID & DIY BLUEPRINT (LETTER IMPERIAL)

Bufo Toad Photo Identification, Laws & DIY Control

Page 1: Full-colour photos comparing Cane, Southern, and American toads + Florida FWC/UF-IFAS rules. Page 2: Imperial trap and fence build.

1. Visual Photo Check: Invasive Cane (Bufo) Toad vs Native US Toads



INVASIVE: Cane / Bufo Toad
Huge triangular gland behind shoulder, flat eye ridges (no knobs), 4 to 6+ in.



NATIVE: Southern Toad (close-up)
Raised ridges ending in distinct round knobs behind eyes + smaller oval glands.



NATIVE: American Toad
Compact under 3.5 in, oval/kidney glands, beneficial pest eater across US.

Feature	Invasive Cane / Bufo Toad	Native Southern / American Toad
Parotoid glands	Huge, triangular glands angled downward behind shoulders	Smaller oval or kidney-shaped glands behind eyes
Cranial knobs	No knobs behind eyes; flat bony ridges over snout	Prominent raised crests ending in distinct knobs (Southern toad)
Adult size	4 to 6 inches commonly (up to 9 inches)	1.5 to 3.5 inches maximum
Breeding call	Low steady pulsing drone like a distant small engine	High-pitched musical trill lasting several seconds
Legal status (FL)	Invasive non-native pest; illegal to relocate live	Beneficial native garden wildlife; leave undisturbed

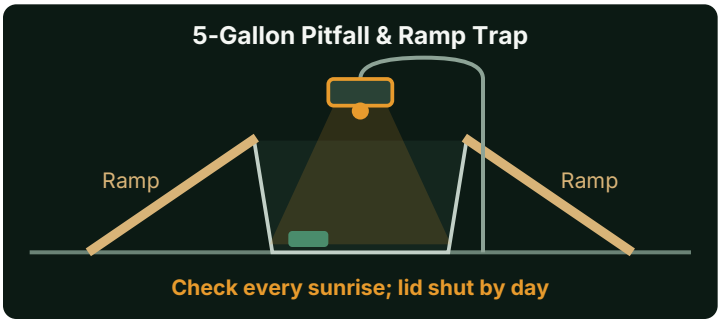
Florida FWC Law & UF/IFAS Humane Euthanasia Protocol

1. **Never relocate invasive cane toads:** Transporting and releasing live invasive cane toads onto parks, canals, or other properties is illegal in Florida.
2. **Wear thick gloves and confirm species:** Only act on positively verified adult invasive cane toads. Leave native Southern and American toads undisturbed.
3. **Apply 20% benzocaine topical gel:** UF/IFAS recommends rubbing a generous strip of over-the-counter 20% benzocaine oral gel onto the toad's back or belly for painless transdermal euthanasia.
4. **Confirm death before disposal:** Wait 30 to 60 minutes until zero blink reflex or movement remains, double-bag, and discard in outdoor trash. Never use bleach, salt, pesticides, or direct freezing.

Photo credits (Wikimedia Commons): Invasive Cane (Bufo) Toad Donald Hobern (CC BY 2.0); Southern Toad glands Alex Abair (CC BY 4.0); American Toad DaringGravitons (CC0).

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2. DIY 5-Gallon Pitfall & Ramp Trap + 24-Inch Hardware Cloth Barrier





Hardware store shopping list (imperial)

- ☐ Deep smooth-walled 5-gallon bucket (14 to 16 in tall) + daylight lid
- ☐ 2x flat wooden ramp planks (20 to 24 in long) + damp sponge
- ☐ Waterproof solar UV outdoor bug light + garden shepherd's hook
- ☐ 30-in tall rolls of 1/4-in galvanized hardware cloth (24 in above, 6 in buried)
- ☐ Wide-beam LED headlamp, thick gloves, and 20% benzocaine gel (FL)

Field workflow for Florida & Gulf yards

1. **Night sweeps beat dry cages:** UF/IFAS recommends collecting 1 to 2 hours after sunset with a headlamp, gloves, or a touchless Cane Catcher.
2. **DIY pitfall & ramp bucket:** Drill 1/4-in rain drains in a smooth 5-gallon bucket, sink flush or lean two flat wooden ramps to the rim, hang the UV lamp 8 in overhead, and add a damp sponge.
3. **Inspect every sunrise & lid by day:** Release native Southern toads, tree frogs, or anoles immediately, and snap the lid closed in daylight to keep dogs out.
4. **Pond control (funnels are for tadpoles):** Skim black jelly egg ropes after warm rain, and check fine-mesh pond funnel traps twice daily for native bycatch.

Outside South Florida & Hawaii: Beneficial Native Toads

In most US states, backyard toads are native American, Southern, or Fowler's toads that consume thousands of garden pests each season. Never harm native toads; simply swap bright white porch bulbs for amber bug lights and cut back evening lawn moisture if you want fewer visitors near doorways.

Calculate exact hardware cloth rolls online: toadtrap.com/us/diy-toad-trap/

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