Dummerston Vernal Pool Monitoring Project
Egg Mass Identification Sheet

The egg masses of three amphibian species might appear in Windham County vernal pools. The following descriptions refer to typical egg masses. Expect variation. If you can't distinguish eggs by sight, try lifting a mass gently to examine it more closely and test the consistency of the jelly. Try not to dislodge the mass from its attachment.

Wood Frogs

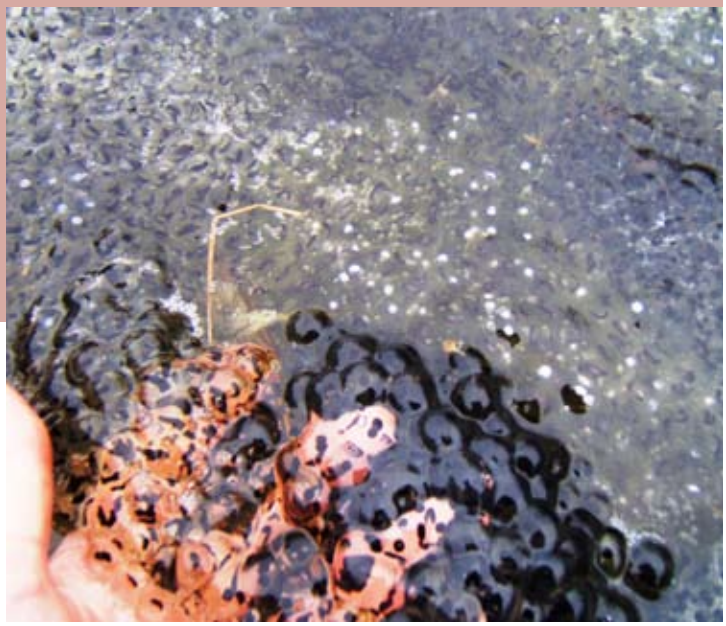
- Individual eggs form the mass— no thick outer jelly casing
- Appearance of tapioca
- Masses attach to twigs and submerged vegetation
- Individual eggs are small black dots in clear jelly

New egg masses:

- Roughly spherical
- Size of tennis ball
- Between 500 and 2,000 eggs per mass
- Often many masses in one or two parts of the pool

Later in season:

- Masses spread into sheets
- Jelly may be semi-opaque and greenish with algae



Spotted Salamanders

- Each egg mass is encased in a thick layer of jelly
- Jelly casing is firm, holds its shape out of water
- Each mass contains 100-200 eggs
- Jelly can be clear, milky, or green with algae
- Egg mass shape varies from spherical to elongate
- The space between the embryo and the outer membrane of each egg is often an opaque pale violet color

Jefferson's Complex Salamanders

- Each egg mass encased in a layer of jelly
- Jelly casing is watery, loses its shape out of water
- Each mass contains 10-60 eggs
- Jelly clear
- Egg mass shape variable, often cylindrical
- If there is an opaque band around the embryo, it will be much narrower than in the spotted salmander egg masses