Identification of Vernal Pools

A time line of the evidence to look for

OBLIGATE SPECIES

Vernal pool identification can be facilitated if you know what to look for when you step into a flooded pool. This graph provides an approximate time line for the breeding evidence of the Massachusetts vernal pool OBLIGATE INDICATOR SPECIES that you might expect to find during the spring and summer months. The time frame for this evidence is variable within the Commonwealth and, indeed, among communities. Pool location, rain events, temperature, and various local factors affect breeding and development times.

		March	April	May	June	July	August	September+
EGG MASSES	Wood Frog							
	Spotted Salamander							
	Blue-spotted Salamander							
	Jefferson Salamander							
TADPOLES/LARVAE	Wood Frog					_		
	Spotted Salamander							
	Blue-spotted Salamander							
	Jefferson Salamander							
	Marbled Salamander							
	Fairy Shrimp							