

Green Treefrogs and the Department of Defense

With its familiar “reeenk-reeenk-reeenk” call, the Green Treefrog (*Dryophytes [Hyla] cinerea*) is a frequently heard frog of the southeastern United States. It is one of the more common frogs present on military properties within its range.

Description: The Green Treefrog is a medium-sized frog measuring 1.25-2.25 inches (3.2-5.7 cm) in snout-vent length, with long limbs and sticky toe pads. It is green with a white or yellow stripe along each side of the body. However, it may readily change its green coloration to dark brown, especially in cooler weather. The stripe may not be present in some individuals. Yellow dorsal flecks are often present. Males are smaller than females.

Range: Green Treefrogs range from Delaware south to southern Florida along the Coastal Plain, west to south-central Texas, and north from the Gulf Coast to southeastern Oklahoma, southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois, southern Indiana, western Kentucky, western Tennessee, and northern Alabama.

Habitat: Green Treefrogs can be found in swamps, marshes, and areas adjacent to ponds, lakes, and slow streams, particularly where aquatic habitats include abundant floating and emergent vegetation.

Behavior: Green Treefrogs spend much of their lives in trees (although they often sleep on the above-water parts of aquatic or water-edge vegetation during the daytime in the breeding season). They are also frequently encountered near porch and patio lights during warm, wet weather where they feed on insects attracted to the light. They are nocturnal and males call while perched on plants (they prefer vegetation with wide blades such as cattails) adjacent to water or from floating vegetation. The calling season extends from March to October. Breeding calls are repeated about 80 times per minute. Green Treefrog tadpoles are more resistant to fish predation than many other frogs in the region.



Conservation Status: The Green Treefrog has no federal conservation status. It is considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in three states at the periphery of its range. It has a NatureServe Raking of G5-Secure, and is listed as Least Concern by the IUCN Red list.

Threats/Planning Considerations: There are no major threats. A habitat management practice to benefit this species is to avoid removing the vegetation from the margins of wetland breeding sites, depriving males of calling perches.



Picture by Paul Block

Occurrence on Military Lands

Confirmed	Potential
Confirmed present on 85 military properties (16 Air Force; 31 Army; 9 Marine Corps; and 29 Navy).	Up to an additional 52 military properties (11 Air Force; 14 Army; and 27 Navy).

Military Interactions: The Green Treefrog is the second most common treefrog species confirmed present on military sites. They are often encountered in both residential and military training areas.

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