

Backyard Spotlight/Torch Search Instructions

Your backyard torch search and frog survey can be completed on the same night if you choose to.

The time required for this survey will depend on the habitat features and plants you have in your backyard. In general allow yourself between 10 to 15 minutes for the torch search.

If you have several large native trees suitable for possums, gliders or owls it may take a little longer to look in each of these during your torch search.

The time of year and weather conditions can also influence how successful you are

To complete your backyard torch survey:

1. On the night that you choose to complete your search ensure that all pets are inside the house or secure in an enclosure by sunset to prevent them from scaring or chasing any wildlife away and from becoming excited and barking if you find a possum or glider in your backyard
2. Download and print out your backyard spotlight/torch search recording sheet.
3. ensure you have a torch that will shine into the tallest trees you have in your backyard and that you have a new or fully charged battery in it.
4. a pair of binoculars is always handy for a closer view without disturbing the animal and can help with identification
5. So you don't scare away any animals that may be in your backyard, go outside quietly with your torch pointing at towards the ground
6. If you have any large trees or areas of existing vegetation that possums, gliders or other larger animals like owls could sit in, try going to these areas first. This way if these animals get scared away by your torch light you may have a chance of seeing them either before or as they scurry away.

Recording Sheet

Date: _____ Time: _____

Weather: _____

| Night Animals (Nocturnal Animals) | Seen in my Backyard | Heard in my Backyard | Activity | Seen/Heard outside of my Backyard (SO or HO) | Additional Comments |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
| Eg. Brushtail possum | 1 | | Running up gum tree in torch light | | Droppings under tree |
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