When nights get longer in autumn crayfish look for mates,



Young crayfish use refuges to avoid predatory fish, birds and adult crayfish. Even man-made refuges will do. June to September is the main period for crayfish to feed and grow.





A YEAR IN THE LIFE...





Crayfish stay mostly in burrows over winter. They look for food when water warms up.



Females carry eggs from autumn to early summer.



Eggs hatch in June but the young crayfish stay attached for about two weeks.



A crayfish has to moult to grow.
It detaches from its old shell,
squeezes out of it and then
forms a new shell.

White-clawed crayfish life cycle © Stephanie Peay