

# Fish Facts

## Species Information

**Channel Catfish:** Not only an outstanding food fish, but also an excellent sport fish. Compatible in lakes and ponds with all species and works especially well with Hybrid Sunfish and Largemouth Bass. Growth Rate: Up to 1 lb. per year if fed commercial feed.

**Hybrid Sunfish:** Produced by crossing a male Bluegill with a female Green Sunfish. Excellent pond fish as it will not overpopulate. Growth rate: ¼ lb. to ½ lb. per year.

**Standard Bluegill:** Very prolific and should be stocked with Largemouth Bass. Similar to Hybrid Sunfish but don't grow as quickly. High numbers of Bluegill can be harvested each year without restocking. Growth rate: Up to ½ lb. each year.

**Standard Redear:** Rapid growth rate and low reproductive rate. Excellent addition to a Bass-Bluegill combination in ponds. Recommended for deeper ponds, feeding on snails/clams, and are usually harder to catch except during spawning season when they are in the shallows. Growth rate: Up to 1/3 lb. per year.

**Hybrid Redear:** Cross between male Bluegill and female Redear. It does eat snails or clams and has a slightly higher reproductive rate than the Hybrid Sunfish.

**Largemouth Bass:** Sport fish that helps to control stunted Bluegill and Crappie populations. Do not mix with Smallmouth Bass. Growth rate: ½ lb. to ¾ lb. per year.

**Triploid Grass Carp:** This fish won't reproduce. When the proper numbers are stocked, they will eliminate the need for using chemicals or mechanical weed cutters. Grass carp eat only pond weeds, most aggressively in the hot, summer months, and good results are usually seen after a second season. Stocking rates are dependent on weed coverage in ponds. Depending on the severity of the weed problem, restocking will need to take place every 3-5 years. Best results are obtained the second summer. Ponds must have an area that is 7-10 ft. deep for fish to over-winter. A general rule of thumb is no more than 5 Grass Carp per surface acre. (Length times width divide by 43,560 feet per acre).

**Fathead Minnows:** Should be stocked in new ponds prior to stocking Largemouth Bass so they are able to spawn and provide food for young Bass.

**Black Crappie:** Very prolific and not recommended for ponds under 5 acres. Do not mix with Hybrid Crappie. Growth rate: Up to ¼ lb. per year.

**Hybrid Crappie:** Reproduction is curtailed in the second generation; they won't overpopulate. Do not mix with Black Crappie.

## Recommended Stocking Rates per Surface Acre of Water

New Ponds- If you plan to FEED your fish:	New Ponds-If you DON'T FEED your fish:
Channel Catfish (4-6") 300 per acre	150 per acre
Hybrid Sunfish (1-2") 250 per acre	250 per acre
Largemouth Bass (2-3") 50 per acre	50 per acre
Standard Bluegill (1-2") 250 per acre	250 per acre
Fathead Minnows: 5 lbs. per acre	5 lbs. per acre
Old Ponds w/existing fish populations: DO FEED	Old Ponds-If you DON'T FEED your fish:
Channel Catfish (6-10") 300 per acre	150 per acre
Hybrid Sunfish (3-5") 500 per acre	250 per acre
Largemouth Bass (5-8") 100 per acre	50 per acre