

# Time to Stock Your Pond for Summer Fishing

Most Ohio ponds have a combination of predator and forage-eating fish species to create a balanced ecosystem. Largemouth bass are the recommended predator species and Bluegill or Redear Sunfish, for example, would be forage-eating species. Fingerlings are fish in the small, immature stage, about one to five inches in length. In a newly constructed pond, fingerlings are an inexpensive alternative to more mature fish.

Pond owners interested in stocking only largemouth bass without bluegill can use fathead minnows as food source for the bass. These minnows should be stocked at the rate of 500 to 1,000 per surface acre.

Stocking rates are included on the next page. If your pond is 1/2 acre or smaller, reduce rates by half to accommodate the smaller surface area. The white amur is a vegetation eating fish used for controlling pond weeds.

When moving fish from one water source to another, the water temperature differences should not exceed five degrees. If the new water source temperature is greater than a five degree difference, slowly add pond water to the fish container so the temperature increases two degrees per hour. Proper temperatures will help fish adapt to their new environment.

**Orders are due Friday, April 2nd and fish can be picked up Thursday, April 8th at 2:30 p.m. at the Hardin SWCD office.**

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## Largemouth Bass

**Midwest Game Fish**—Although there are many types of bass, the largemouth bass is best suited for the temperate waters of the Midwest. The bass is usually found around structures such as brush piles and weed beds. It has a widely varied diet that emphasizes minnows and small fish. Its predatory nature helps keep other fish from overpopulating. One-year-old bass range from three to seven inches long.

## Channel Catfish

**Midwest Game Fish**—The channel catfish is most commonly found around the bottom of a lake or pond. It is a scavenger and will eat just about anything it can find. Channel catfish do not generally reproduce in ponds due to the absence of an adequate spawning structure. A suitable structure can be added by placing buckets or drain tile on the pond bottom.

## Yellow Perch

**Midwest Game Fish**—The yellow perch is a cool-water fish. It should be stocked in lakes in which the water temperature remains below 75° F year round. Perch feed on zooplankton, insects, snails, and other small fish. One-year-old fish range in size from one to four inches.

## Fathead Minnow

**Forage Fish**—The fathead minnow's small size and abundant reproduction make it an excellent forage fish. It is very tolerant of muddy water and a wide range of pH levels. Its rapid rate of reproduction makes it an excellent choice for stocking where predatory fish are present. One-year-old fish range in size from one-half to three inches and seldom exceed three inches at maturity.

## Redear Sunfish

**Alternative Management Species**—The redear sunfish is very similar to the bluegill. It is found around structures where it feeds almost exclusively on mollusks. The redear is known to be fast growing and hard fighting. The redear does not reproduce as much as the bluegill and is not likely to overpopulate. Spawning begins in late spring. One-year-old fish may range from one to four inches.

## White Amur

**Biological Aquatic Weed Control**—The amur is a natural alternative for aquatic weed control. It is more effective than chemical control without potential side effects. Special precautions should be used when stocking amur. Overflow drain pipes should be screened off and the use of copper based chemicals should be avoided.

## Bluegill

**Alternative Management Species**—Bluegills are usually the pond fish most eager to bite and put up a good fight on light tackle despite their small size. Young bluegills feed on tiny microscopic plants, called phytoplankton and zooplankton. The diet of adults often includes insects, snails, small crayfish, fish eggs, and very small fish. Bluegills can grow to six inches in two to four years when plenty of food and space are available.

## Hybrid Bluegill

**Alternative Management Species**—The hybrid bluegill is a fish that is stronger and grows faster than the regular bluegill. As a result of hybridization, 90% of the fish are males, reducing the chance of an overpopulation problem. This fish has the habits of the normal bluegill, but is more aggressive and more readily accepts commercial fish food.

# Annual Spring Fish Sale

Deadline for orders: Friday, April 2nd, 2021

Pick up date: Thursday, April 8th at 2:30 p.m.

Hardin Soil & Water Conservation District Office

You will need to bring a trash container with a non deodorized plastic liner, half full of your pond water, to pick up the fish at the Hardin Soil & Water Conservation District office on

**Thursday, April 8th at 2:30 p.m.**

Fish can be purchased in any quantity and/or combination. Recommended stocking rate of the fingerlings (one to five inches long) for new ponds (per surface acre) is:

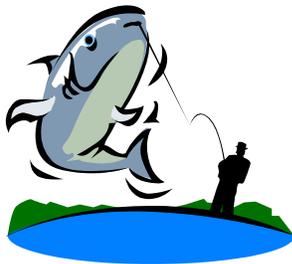
- 100 largemouth bass
- 500 bluegill
- 100 channel catfish

The stocking rate for White Amur is:

Percent of Pond Covered by Plants	Number of White Amur Per Surface Acre of Water
0 – 20%	0
20 – 40%	5
40 – 60%	10
60% – over	20

Clip this out as a reminder.

**Hardin SWCD Fish Sale**  
**12751 SR 309 West, Kenton**  
**Thursday, April 8th, 2:30 p.m.**



Please bring a 10 or 20 gallon garbage can with a non-deodorized plastic liner one-half (1/2) filled with your pond water.

10 gallons will hold 100 fingerlings; and 2 gallons are needed for each White Amur. Oxygen will be added to the bag for those traveling long distances.

**Hardin SWCD**  
**419-673-0456, Ext. 3**

## Hardin SWCD Fish Sale Order Form

Mail order form with payment by April 2nd to:

**Hardin SWCD**  
**12751 St. Rt. 309 W.**  
**Kenton, OH 43326**

For Office Use Only

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cash/Check \_\_\_\_\_  
 Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_  
 By \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Species	Size	Quantity	Price	Total
Largemouth Bass	2" – 3"	_____	\$0.95	_____
Bluegill	2" – 4"	_____	\$0.85	_____
Hybrid Bluegill	2" – 4"	_____	\$0.85	_____
Channel Catfish	4" – 5"	_____	\$0.80	_____
White Amur	8" – 10"	_____	\$13.00	_____
Yellow Perch	2" – 3"	_____	\$0.90	_____
Redear Sunfish	2" – 4"	_____	\$0.85	_____
Fathead Minnows	1" – 2"	_____	\$0.08	_____

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_