

# Fish Descriptions

*There is a Pond Management Handbook that can be downloaded from the districts webpage and it includes information about pond construction, stocking rates, management of aquatic vegetation, fish health, pond problems and solutions, wildlife enhancement and best fishing practices. You can also view several charts, graphics and visual examples that are in the handbook. The district also has hard copies of the Pond Management Handbook available in the office upon request.*



## **Largemouth Bass**

The largemouth bass is the top predator in Ohio ponds. As largemouth bass grow, they switch to a diet of insects, crayfish, and small fish. Adult largemouth bass in ponds usually eat bluegills and small largemouth bass, although their diets can be quite variable. Most largemouth bass live from four to six years, but some may live to 10 years old or more.



## **Hybrid Bluegill**

Bluegills prefer to eat insects, but they sometimes eat small fish. The hybrid bluegill, a cross between a green sunfish and bluegill, is a fish that is stronger and grows faster than the regular bluegill. As a result of hybridization, 90 percent of the fish are males, reducing the chance of an overpopulation problem.



## **Channel Catfish**

Channel catfish are often considered “bonus fish” because they don’t interfere with the other pond fish, but provide extra fishing and harvest opportunities. Channel catfish are most at home in large streams, lakes or reservoirs, but they also survive and grow very well when stocked in ponds. These fish are primarily bottom feeders, preferring live or dead insects, crayfish, fish, and occasionally aquatic plants.



## **Yellow Perch**

Yellow perch spawn in the spring. They lay eggs over submerged tree limbs, sticks, and vegetation. Their diet includes aquatic invertebrates and occasionally fish. They feed in the morning and evening, rest on the bottom at night and continue feeding year-round. Yellow perch are known to live as long as 13 years.



## **White Amur**

Unlike largemouth bass, bluegills and catfish, grass carp are not stocked for sport or to eat, but to control or eliminate nuisance aquatic vegetation. Natural spawning is impossible in standing water, so the source of all fish for stockings is from artificial propagation. Growth of white amur is nearly unbelievable, young fish stocked in the spring at 8 inches will reach over 18 inches by fall.



## **Fathead Minnow**

The fathead minnow is found in cool to warm aquatic habitats throughout eastern and northern North America. Minnows are found in most streams and lakes and are especially common in environments where predaceous fishes are rare. Fathead minnows eat a variety of plant and animal matter. Because of its general habitat requirements and hardy nature, it is a common baitfish.