

Fish Descriptions



Bluegill: A deep slab-sided fish with a small mouth and long pectoral fin. Colors vary, however the ear flap is always black and bluegills often have a black blotch near the end of the soft dorsal fin. They grow 6-10 inches, depending on habitat and population. Bluegills eat insects, insect larvae, small fish and fish eggs. They do prefer clear ponds and lakes with rooted vegetation.

Hybrid Bluegill: The Hybrid Bluegill is a cross between a Male Bluegill and a Female Green Sunfish, and is sometimes referred to as a Hybrid Sunfish. As a result of the cross the Hybrid Bluegill is ~80-90% male, giving it a reduced reproductive potential and making it an ideal choice for those ponds prone to Bluegill stunting. When you stock Hybrid Bluegill, you also have to stock a supplemental forage species for the Largemouth Bass, like the Fathead Minnow or Golden Shiner.



Redear Shellcracker: The shellcracker or redear is a species of sunfish or bream related to the bluegill. This fish is adapted for feeding on snails or other mollusks, in addition to insect larvae. They coexist well with bluegill and do not compete with them for nest sites. Stocked by themselves they will not reproduce in sufficient numbers to support a bass population. Therefore, it is suggested to stock them in combination with the bluegill. The common stocking combination of these fish is 85% bluegill and 15% shellcracker.

Black Crappie: Closely resemble white crappie, but have deeper bodies. Furthermore, their head, back and sides are mottled with dusky or black blotches. The black crappie has seven or eight dorsal spines. They feed on zooplankton and insect larvae, but as they grow they switch to primarily a diet of small fish. Adult's size will average 8 - 12 inches.



Channel Catfish: Channel catfish are scale less and have slender bodies, deeply forked tails, barbels around the mouth and curved anal fins with 24-30 rays. Colors vary, but generally bluish-silver on the upper half and silver to white on the lower half. They feed on or near the bottom, eating insect larvae, crayfish, mollusks and small fish. Catfish will grow 12-14 inches with reaching 10 pounds or more if they live in large rivers or productive lakes.

Yellow Perch: Sides are golden yellow to brassy green with 6-8 broad, dark vertical bands and a white to yellowy belly. They eat aquatic insects and larvae along with small fish. Their size is normally 5-12 inches and weigh less than a pound, but can exceed 2 pounds.



Large Mouth Bass: The back part of the jaw extends beyond the back border of the eye when the mouth is closed. A dark lateral band extends from head to tail. They normally reach 12-15 inches and weigh 1-3 pounds, but can reach over 25" and 13 pounds. Bass eat crayfish, frogs, large insects and fishes.

White Amur: White amur is commonly known as grass carp. Their body is oblong with moderately large scales, while the head has none. Amur are silvery to olive in color, lacking the golden hue of the common carp. They reach sizes of 65-80 pounds in native habitat. They live for at least 10 years, grow rapidly. Amur feed from the top of the plant down so that the mud is not stirred up.



Fathead Minnows: Fatheads are found in small creeks, especially muddy ones, in ponds, and small lakes. They grow about 3 inches long and are the most commonly used bait. They are propagated and sold in bait stores throughout the state.