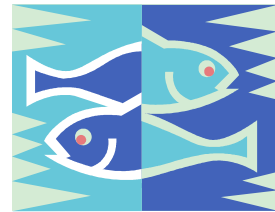


Stocking Considerations for Your Pond

Tri-County Pond Workshop May 29, 2008

What to stock?

- Largemouth Bass
 - Requires large numbers of small fish to feed on for good growth.
- Bluegill (sometimes known as Bream or Sunfish)
 - Tendency to overpopulate.
 - Good food resource for bass. Great sport fish for anglers.
- Channel Catfish
 - Stock alone in ponds smaller than ½ acre or in ponds that are muddy throughout the year.
 - May overpopulate if stocked alone.
 - When stocking with bass, should be a minimum of 8 – 10 inches in size.
- Redear Sunfish (sometimes known as Shellcracker)
 - Good resource for bass. Great sport fish for anglers.
 - Don't stock alone or compromise more than 30% of the initial stocking. It will not produce enough offspring to sustain bass population.
- White Amur (commonly called the Grass Carp)
 - You must have a permit from the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission before introducing this fish to your pond.
 - Only triploid grass carp (sterile) are legal in Florida.
 - Can be used to control aquatic vegetation.



What not to stock?

- Black Crappie and White Crappie (sometimes known as specks, speckled perch or white perch)
 - These fish will compete with bass for food, eat small bass and may overpopulate the pond.
- Common Carp and Bullheads
 - These fish will stir up the pond bottom while feeding and the bullheads may overpopulate.
- Georgia Giant (See Handout #2)

How many should you stock?

- Florida
 - 100 bass and 500 bluegill fingerlings per acre.
 - Catfish can be stocked at 100 per acre along with bass and bluegill or alone.
 - If catfish are fed then a higher rate can be used.
 - When stocking larger fish
 - 50, 8 to 12 inch bass
 - 200, 4 to 5 inch bluegill
 - 50 to 100, 8 to 12 inch catfish

When to stock?

- As soon after the pond is filled or reclaimed
- Bluegill and Catfish
 - Stock in the fall
- Bass
 - Stock the following spring
- Avoid stocking in midsummer



How do you introduce fish to your pond?

- Transport water and pond water should be equalized by slowly adding pond water into the transport container.
- Fish that are stressed will sink or appear weak
- Fish should swim away quickly once they enter the pond
- Mortality due to transportation and stocking can occur from immediate to several days after stocking has occurred.

Adapted Source: UF IFAS Extension, Managing Florida Ponds for Fishing, CIR802, Charles E. Cichra