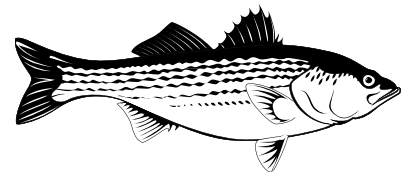


**JO DAVIESS COUNTY SWCD
2020 SPRING FISH ORDER BLANK**



NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE ZIP _____

| Fish Species | Quantity | Price |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|
| 4-6" Channel Catfish | .70 Each | _____ |
| 6-8" Channel Catfish (Predator Proof) | .90 Each | _____ |
| 8-10" Catfish (Predator Proof) | 1.10 Each | _____ |
| 4-6" Albino Catfish | 1.20 Each | _____ |
| 1-2" Hybrid Sunfish (Minimum order 250) | \$75.00/bag of 250 | _____ |
| 3-5" Hybrid Sunfish (Predator Proof) | .85 Each | _____ |
| 5-7" Hybrid Sunfish (Predator Proof) | 1.20 Each | _____ |
| 2-3" Largemouth Bass | .90 Each | _____ |
| 5-8" Largemouth Bass (Predator Proof) | \$2.90 Each | _____ |
| 1-2" Bluegill (Minimum order 250) | \$75.00/bag of 250 | _____ |
| 3-5" Bluegill | .85 Each | _____ |
| 1-2" Redear Sunfish (Minimum order 250) | \$75.00/bag of 250 | _____ |
| Fathead Minnows | \$12.00 Lb. | _____ |
| **8-11" Grass Carp | \$12.00 Each | _____ |
| Order Total | | \$ _____ |

ORDER DEADLINES: Grass Carp— April 8, 2020 Other Fish— April 17, 2020
DELIVERY: 8:00 a.m., **Monday, April 27, 2020** at the Elizabeth Community Building

****REQUIRED PERMIT INFORMATION FOR GRASS CARP ORDER**

POND LOCATION: TWP _____ **SECTION NO.** _____ **POND SIZE** _____ **ACRES**

PAYMENT: Please include payment with your order, payable to Jo Daviess SWCD
MAIL OR DELIVER TO: 227 North Main Street, P. O Box 502, Elizabeth, IL 61028 815-858-3418 ext.3

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

All fish except the 8-10" catfish will be bagged and sealed in oxygenated water.
 A 5 gallon bucket or something similar to support the bags is recommended.
 The 8-10" catfish cannot be bagged. Bring large containers (garbage cans, etc.) filled with water.
Water cannot be furnished. DO NOT use chlorinated water.

Our fish supplier will bag all fish in oxygenated water at the time of delivery. About 50 of the 3-8" size fish or 250 fingerlings can be placed in each bag. You may wish to bring containers as an extra precaution for transporting the bagged fish (5 gallon buckets are ideal, also garbage cans, coolers etc). In open trucks some type of cover such as a canvas or old blanket is advised to keep the fish out of direct sunlight.

The 8-10" and larger catfish cannot be bagged so you must supply your own water and a container for their transport. A 30 gallon container filled with pond water is recommended for each 100/8-10" catfish, or for the large catfish, approximately 1/2 gallon of water for each pound.

STOCKING CONSIDERATIONS: The recommended minimum pond size for fish stocking is 1/2 acre with a depth of 10 feet or more over at least 1/4 of the pond area. Winter kill is a problem in smaller ponds because decaying vegetation depletes oxygen and ice cover seals off oxygen from the air. You may successfully stock a smaller pond if spring water or an aeration unit keeps ice cover from forming on part of the pond.

The small size fingerling fish are for stocking in new ponds that do not have an existing fish population. Because of predation it is not advisable to put fingerlings in a pond that has been previously stocked. Fish listed as "predator proof" are large enough to be stocked in any pond.

STOCKING RATES: In new ponds the fingerling size Largemouth Bass and a combination of either Hybrid Sunfish & Bluegill or Hybrid Sunfish and Redear Sunfish are normally stocked together. The recommended rate is 100 Bass and 1000 Hybrid Sunfish/Bluegill or 100 Bass and 1000 Hybrid Sunfish/Redear Sunfish per surface acre of water.

Channel Catfish may be stocked with the Bass and Hybrid Sunfish at a rate of 100 per surface acre of water. Channel Cat may also be raised alone at higher stocking rates. Up to 500 Channel Cat per acre may be raised if commercial feed will be used. Channel Cat do not reproduce in most ponds so additional "predator proof" Channel Cat should be added every few years to replace those that were harvested.

Fathead Minnows are also recommended in new ponds. The stocking rate is 5-10 pounds per surface acre of water. Initially the Fathead Minnows will reproduce heavily. In two or three years they will all be consumed by the gamefish but the Bass, Sunfish and Channel Cat will have grown faster because of the extra food supply. Fathead minnows are quickly devoured by game fish in an existing pond so they are not recommended for ponds that are currently well stocked.

Grass Carp are specifically for control of nuisance aquatic vegetation and have proven useful in several area ponds. Grass Carp are not recommended unless aquatic weeds are a serious problem that affects more than 20% of the pond. Additional information on Grass Carp is attached.

FISHERY MANAGEMENT

The ratio of Largemouth Bass, Hybrid Sunfish and Bluegill/Redear Sunfish must be managed properly to maintain good fishing. Hybrid Sunfish are a fast growing cross between Bluegill and Green Sunfish. They are 97% male so reproduction is limited and over population is not a concern. Fingerling size Hybrid Sunfish grow quickly to provide good fishing in the second and third years after stocking. Additional predator proof Hybrid Sunfish may be added every 2-4 years to replace those removed by angling and predation.

It is normally desirable to stock either Bluegill or Redear Sunfish along with the Hybrid Sunfish because these fish reproduce to provide food for better growth of the Largemouth Bass. The main concern is to prevent overpopulation by the Bluegill or Redear Sunfish. After the fishery is established 4 lbs. of Bluegill/Redear Sunfish must be harvested for every pound of Bass. Keep all Bluegills/Redear Sunfish but return Bass smaller than 14 ". For those who would like additional information on pond management, we have an informative free booklet from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources available at our office.

GRASS CARP
A BIOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVE FOR AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

*Aquatic plants are a beneficial and a necessary part of lakes and ponds. They are important in producing oxygen and serve as escape areas for young fish.

*Plants can become problems when they interfere with the intended use of lakes and ponds, whether it is for boating, swimming, fishing, irrigation or livestock watering. In the past, most weed control was attempted using aquatic herbicides. Herbicides are generally expensive, provide only temporary control and are potentially hazardous if misused.

*A biological control is now available with the use of the Triploid White Amur (commonly called the Grass Carp). It is a long, slender, silver fish with a terminal mouth (not sucker like as in the common carp).

*Grass Carp do not muddy the water as do common Carp. They will not reproduce in ponds or eat other fish. When properly stocked in ponds Grass Carp can control filamentous algae, duckweed and submerged plant.

TRIPLOID GRASS CARP STOCKING POLICY

It is the policy of the Department of Conservation to NOT permit the stocking of triploid grass carp into any natural body of water including glacial lakes, slough potholes, bottomland lakes, streams, or rivers; water areas known to harbor rare, threatened, or endangered animals or plants on the official National or State listing; any State inventory natural area; any State Nature Preserve; or any wetland.

As with any method of nuisance aquatic vegetation control, **RESULTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED**. The private lake owner should give careful consideration before stocking triploids as results in other states have been variable, all the way from no vegetation control, to total eradication of aquatic vegetation. **POTENTIALLY SERIOUS IMPACTS TO SPORTFISH POPULATIONS CAN RESULT FROM THE OVERSTOCKING OF GRASS CARP AND THE SUBSEQUENT ELIMINATION OF AQUATIC WEEDS.**

Table 1. Suggested regional stocking rates for grass carp (8-12". if bass are present) into lakes and ponds in Illinois.

| Percent Plant Coverage | No. of Triploid Grass Carp per Lake Acre |
|------------------------|--|
| 10 - 20 | Stocking not recommended, mechanical or chemical spot treatment as necessary |
| 20 - 40 | 5 (Northern Illinois) |
| 40 - 60 | 10 (Northern Illinois) |
| over 60 | 15 (Northern Illinois) |

REMEMBER THAT AQUATIC VEGETATION CONTROL WITH TRIPLOID GRASS CARP WILL TAKE TIME. Monitoring the changes in the abundance of aquatic vegetation following stocking should be done each year. If the desired results are not achieved within three summers following stocking, consider increasing the number of triploid grass carp in the lake or pond, but do not exceed the maximum shown in Table 1. Triploid grass carp will live for many years in your lake or pond. However, sometime in the future (approximately 7 years), restocking will probably become necessary to continue the desired level of control.