










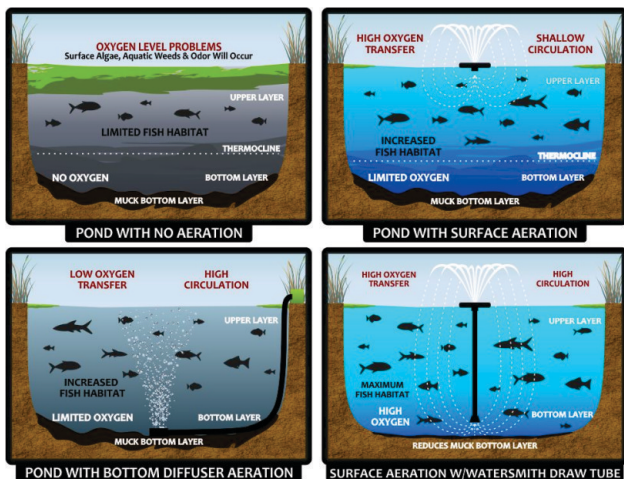
# STOCKING RATES & POND HABITAT RECOMMENDATIONS

## NORMAL STOCKING RATES OF FISHES FOR PONDS

 <p><b>RAINBOW TROUT</b></p> <p>100 per acre (temperature &lt;= 70 deg.) 500 or more per acre with feeding</p>	 <p><b>YELLOW PERCH</b></p> <p>100 per acre 500 or more per acre with feeding</p>	 <p><b>LARGEMOUTH BASS</b></p> <p>100 per acre</p>	 <p><b>CHANNEL CATFISH</b></p> <p>100 per acre 500 or more per acre with feeding</p>	 <p><b>STD. BLUEGILL</b></p> <p>500 per acre</p>
 <p><b>HYBRID BLUEGILL</b></p> <p>100-500 per acre (extra feeding can produce 2-3 lb. fish)</p>	 <p><b>FATHEAD MINNOWS</b></p> <p>1 gallon/acre for new pond 2-4 gallon/acre for older pond More if large bass are present</p>	 <p><b>GOLDEN SHINERS</b></p> <p>1 gallon/acre for new pond 2-4 gallon/acre for older pond More if large bass are present</p>	 <p><b>WHITE AMUR</b></p> <p>10-15/acre for a normal pond (more are required if pond is highly fertile) 30-50/acre for a golf course type pond</p>	<p><i>Rates may vary according to size of fish at the time of stocking and presence of fish predators. Figures quoted here are for fingerlings over 4 inches. Higher stocking rates may be needed when larger bass or trout are present.</i></p>

Please note that any overflow pipes need to be restricted with plastic netting or bars with one inch spacing or less to prevent escape of White Amur. We do not recommend the use of copper sulfate or other algicides in your pond for the safety of the White Amur and other minnows.

## Benefits of Proper Pond Aeration & Circulation



An average pond without proper circulation has multiple layers of water, with each layer getting colder as it gets deeper. These dark bottom layers typically have little or no oxygen, which can decrease the amount of useable fish habitat and inhibit bottom-dwelling food sources (such as worms and crawfish). Another drawback to an oxygen-starved pond bottom is that organic debris (leaves, plant material, dead fish, etc.) are unable to properly decompose. This can result in an accumulation of black, smelly, anaerobic sludge that builds up over the years, making the pond shallower. Another drawback to heavily layered ponds is that they are more susceptible to fall turnovers and subsequent fish kills.

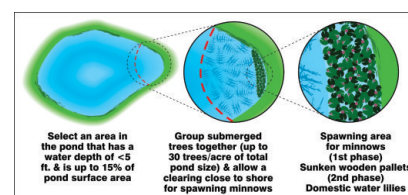
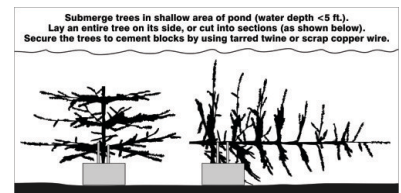
When a pond has proper aeration and circulation, the layers in the pond are well mixed, and all zones of the pond have good oxygen levels, day and night. Organic debris can now decompose in a way that the nutrients may now enter into the food chain to eventually become more food for your fish. The likelihood of a fish kill (from natural occurrences) is virtually eliminated. A well aerated pond will have healthy and active fish, and will return to its natural, alluring beauty.

## An Ideal Fish Habitat

Before discarding that Christmas tree in the trash after the holiday season, consider putting it to good use for the environment. Trees can be used to create fish habitats in ponds, providing substrate for food organisms and a protective habitat for young fish fry and fingerlings. We've had great success with customers putting trees in their ponds over the past 20 years.

We recommend our customer's put up to 30 trees per acre into their pond. Place them in at least 4-5 ft. of water so that they stay below the surface. When they're placed near the edge of the pond, they also provide the unique habitat needed for yellow perch egg ribbons to hatch properly.

Various methods exist to anchor Christmas trees so they will stay submerged. We recommend using cement blocks to anchor the trees. (See diagram, right.) After being submerged, trees waterlog and no longer float. It is best to pile several trees on top of each other to get some vertical height to your structure while keeping them below the surface of the water for the sake of appearance. Dedicate one area of the pond for this purpose to create a large enough structure that will instinctively attract young fish.



Sunken Christmas trees last, on average, ten years. Needles will fall off within the first year, but this is no problem for ponds, and the remaining branches will colonize with food organisms, which are useful for feeding young fish fry of many species.

So, consider using discarded Christmas trees as a source of habitat for your ponds. When constantly submerged, they last much longer than generally believed! Your pond will be happy, your fish will be happy, and the human at the business end a rod bent double will be happy.