

STOCKING RATES & POND HABITAT RECOMMENDATIONS

2624 N. US Hwy. 68
Urbana, OH 43078

Toll Free (800) 634-7434
Phone (937) 652-3701
Fax (937) 652-3481

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NORMAL STOCKING RATES OF FISHES FOR PONDS

 RAINBOW TROUT 100 per acre (temperature <= 70 deg.) 500+/-acre with feeding Winter stocking = 24/acre 10" fish or larger	 LARGEMOUTH BASS 100 per acre	 HYBRID STRIPED BASS 100 per acre	 BLACK CRAPPIE 100-500 per acre	 YELLOW PERCH 100 per acre
 WHITE AMUR 10-15/acre for a normal pond (more are required if pond is highly fertile) 30-50/acre for a golf course type pond	 HYBRID BLUEGILL 100-500 per acre (extra feeding can produce 2-3 lb. fish)	 STD. BLUEGILL 500 per acre	 RED EAR SUNFISH 100-500 per acre	<p><i>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 young fish.</i></p>
	 CHANNEL CATFISH 100 per acre	 FATHEAD MINNOWS 1 gallon/acre for new pond 2-4 gallon/acre for older pond More if large bass are present	 GOLDEN SHINERS 1 gallon/acre for new pond 2-4 gallon/acre for older pond More if large bass are present	

Recommendations may vary if pond has a presence of fish predators. Higher stocking rates may be needed when larger bass or trout are present. Up to five times the normal stocking rate may be added to a pond if you will be feeding the fish.

An Ideal Fish Habitat

Before discarding old Christmas trees and pallets, consider putting them to good use for the environment by creating fish habitats in your pond.

Trees provide substrate for food organisms and a protective habitat for young fish fry and fingerlings. 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.

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.

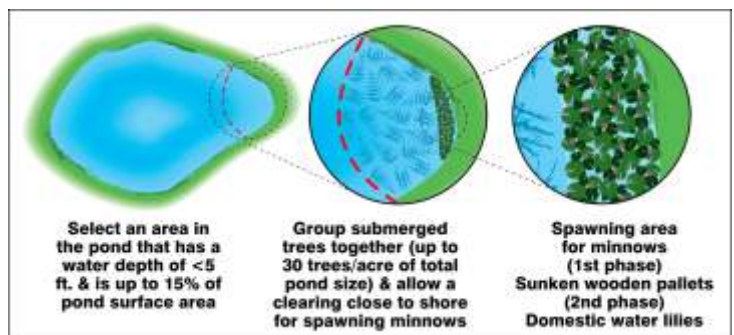
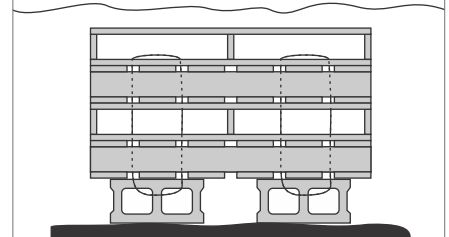
We also recommend sinking groups of 4-5 wooden pallets just below the surface of the water at the shallow end of your pond for fathead minnows. Stack the pallets, rotating each one 90 degrees from the one below. Fathead Minnows will stick there eggs to the underside of the pallets. Water lilies and Christmas trees can also be added around the edges of the pallets to provide additional shelter and protection.

So, consider using discarded Christmas trees and pallets 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.

Submerge trees in shallow area of pond (water depth <5 ft.). Lay an entire tree on its side, or cut into sections (as shown below). Secure the trees to cement blocks by using tarred twine or scrap copper wire.



Submerge stacked pallets, staggered at 90 degrees just below the surface of the water. Secure the pallets to cement blocks by using tarred twine or scrap copper wire.



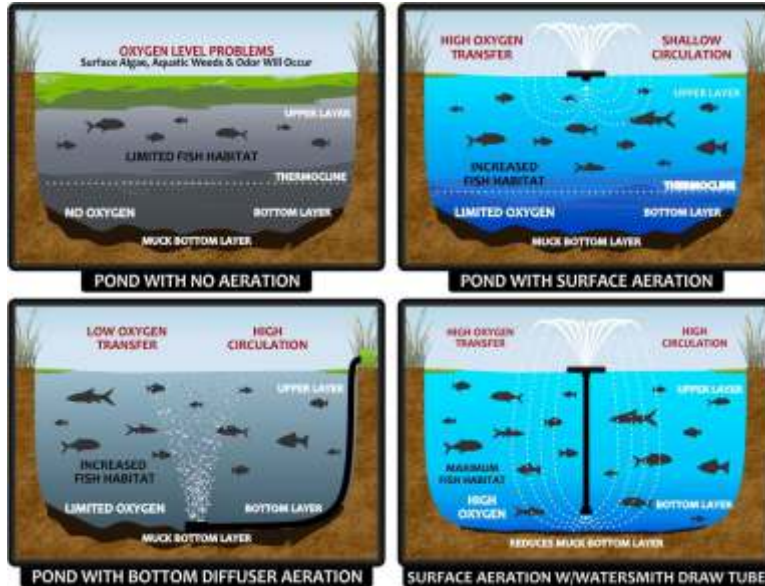
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Benefits of Proper Pond Aeration & Circulation



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.

4 Steps to Effective Algae & Weed Control

Pond algae and excessive vegetation can be a pond owner's worst nightmare. Algae usually becomes noticeable in the warmer months of the year when the sun light is at its brightest and temperatures are at their hottest.

Treating algae with chemicals simply results in killing it, causing it to sink to the bottom of the pond which creates additional problems. When that occurs, it depletes the oxygen in the water and adds to the organic matter that new algae feeds on. Chemicals can also be harmful to aquatic wildlife. We recommend a more natural, economical and safer approach to algae control. When the ecosystem is balanced, pond maintenance can be reduced.

This approach can be tailored to work for all types of ponds whether they are purely decorative or used for fishing, swimming, irrigation, retention basins, or any combination of those.

① AERATION Proper aeration and circulation is key to maintaining a healthy pond. Aeration can help free up nutrients to be used by the beneficial micro-algae (bottom of food chain) instead of feeding macro-algae and vegetation. Aeration can also physically push surface water outward to the pond banks which helps keep the pond open and clear.

② WHITE AMUR Real world experience has shown the continued control of aquatic vegetation by White Amur is a safer, easier and more economical approach over the long term than any other physical or chemical control strategy for ecologically enhanced and self-sustaining ponds and lakes. One of the biggest benefits of white amur as a biological control versus the use of chemical herbicides is the spawning and reproduction of other desired fish species in the pond. While larger fish may tolerate copper-based compounds for example, it is well known that they are devastating to small fry and their microscopic food base.

The fish do continue to grow and eat throughout their normal 10-15 year life span. Additional re-stocking of some amur every few years is a good long-term strategy to continue a proper level of control.

③ POND DYE Pond dyes help to control algae by filtering out some sunlight, which suppresses growth of submerged vegetation. If used properly, pond dye is not toxic to humans, animals, fish, plants, and even the good bacteria which breaks down the waste products of fish. Dye will need to be reapplied as it is flushed out of the pond by incoming new water.

SPOT TREATMENT In certain cases, it may be necessary to chemically spot-treat certain plant species, such as water meal, using a fish-friendly broad spectrum aquatic herbicide such as Tsunami DQ (Diquat Dibromide). Additionally, Round-Up can be used to control marginal, or shore-line plants such as cattails.