

Spring 2015 Pond Stocking

Order Deadline: May 8, 2015

Pickup Date: May 15, 2015 10:00am SHARP

General Information: Stocking rates usually are 50-100 bass and 500-600 minnows per surface acre. If your pond is relatively new, be sure there is vegetation for reproductive habitat and aquatic life for a food chain. Recommended time to establish a pond before stocking is one year. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the DEC prior to pickup. Applications are available in our office or on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **WITH A LID** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 25 fish) filled 1/2 full with pond water. Transferring the fish to your pond immediately is of utmost importance due to oxygen needs. The hatchery personnel will be available for only 1/2 hour for delivery so **PLEASE BE PROMPT!**

Spring 2015 Grass Carp Stocking

Order Deadline: May, 8 2015

Pickup Date: May 15, 2015 10:00am SHARP

General Information: The average size of the carp will be between 10-12". Stock grass carps in ponds which have been properly protected so they are unable to escape through inlets and outlets into other NYS waters. You **MUST** obtain a stocking permit from the NYS DEC before submitting your order. If you require a permit application, our office retains a supply of them or you can print a copy on our website, www.niagaraswcd.com.

Pickup Information: Pickup will be at the SWCD office located at the northeast end of the Coop. Extension Administrative Building on the County Fairgrounds, Route 78, Lockport. At the time of pickup, you will need to bring a container **WITH A LID** (an 18-gal plastic tote holds 4 carp) filled 1/2 full with pond water. These fish are highly perishable and must be transported as quickly as possible. For more information on Triploid Grass Carp and how they can benefit pond weed control, call (716) 434-4949 ext. 114

Payment Information: Submit payment by check or money order with the bottom portions of these forms, payable to Niagara County SWCD. Keep the top portions as your delivery reminders

Spring 2015 Pond Stocking				Spring 2015 Grass Carp Stocking	
Type of Fish	Cost	# of Fish	\$ Amount		
Perch 3" - 5"	10/\$35			Name: _____	
Bass 4" - 6"	10/\$50			Address: _____	
Catfish 4" - 6"	10/\$30			Daytime Phone: _____	
Rainbow Trout 3" - 5"	10/\$25			Number of Carp: _____	
Brook Trout 4" - 6"	10/\$30			X \$21/fish	
Bluegill 3" - 5"	10/\$30			+ Delivery \$4.00	
Fathead Minnows 1"	100/\$20			Total Due _____	
Golden Shiners 2" - 3"	50/\$26			(NYS sales tax included as required)	
Subtotal				Mail payment WITH ALL 3 ORIGINAL	
+ Delivery			\$4.00	COPIES of your DEC Permit to:	
Total Due				Niagara County SWCD	
<i>(NYS sales tax included as required)</i>				4487 Lake Avenue	
Name: _____				Lockport, NY 14094	
Address: _____					
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____					
Daytime Phone: _____					
Mail to Niagara County SWCD					
4487 Lake Ave.					
Lockport, New York 14094					

FISH FACTS

Perch - The true perch of New York State include some of the best tasting and most popular freshwater fishes. As a family, they are widely distributed, adaptable to a wide range of habitats, and fun to catch on rod and reel. In addition, the less known members of the perch family, the darters, are probably the most colorful freshwater fish in North America. True perch are spiny-rayed fish which have one or more sharp spines on their fins. While they are quite variable in appearance, they all are slender in body shape, have two dorsal (back) fins, and one anal fin. True perch can be separated into two groups: larger perches and smaller perches.

Largemouth Bass - Found throughout NYS, they are considered one of the state's most important sport fish. These members of the Sunfish Family (Centrarchidae) prefer weedy, rocky areas to provide both protection and food supply. Usually weighing 3-5 lbs, they can get over 10 lbs and 2 feet in length. They are carnivorous; which means they'll eat small fish, crayfish, frogs, snakes, and some small mammals and birds if given the opportunity.

Channel Catfish - Catfishes are characterized by scaleless skin and barbels, better known as whiskers, about their mouth. Channel catfish have a deeply forked tail and dark spots. The spotting, however, diminishes with age. Consequently, older channel cats are frequently mistaken as blue catfish. But the anal fin on blue cats has a flat outer edge and channels have a rounded edge. They can grow to be 4 ft long and weigh up to 58lbs.

Rainbow Trout - Rainbow trout are often very colorful fish. They have gray-blue to greenish backs and light colored sides with dark spots. Rainbows get their name from the pink or red band often present on their sides. During spawning, this band turns a deep red. Like other trout, adult rainbows tend to be more silvery when living in large lakes like the Great Lakes. Quite variable in size, mature rainbow trout may weigh one or two pounds in streams and more than 15 pounds in the Great Lakes

Brook Trout - The brook or speckled trout is New York's official State fish. A native of the State, it is the smallest, and to many people, the most attractive trout occurring in the State. It has a dark olive green background with light wavy markings on the back, and tan or red spots on the sides. Its lower fins are striking, with bright white edging separated from the mostly red fin by a black line. Brook trout generally live in small- to moderate-sized streams, lakes, and ponds, wherever cool clean water is available. Some brook trout typically weigh one to two pounds.

Bluegill—Bluegills are green to brown on their backs and upper sides shading into brown, orange, or pink with traces of vertical bars along their bottom sides. The breast is yellow to copper-orange, and the sides of their heads have metallic blue and green overtones. The large, square-shaped, blue-black gill flap and conspicuous dark blotch on the back of the soft-rayed portion of their dorsal fins distinguishes bluegills from their close relatives, the pumpkinseed. Bluegills average four to ten inches in length.

Fathead Minnows - Fathead minnows are small in size, averaging 2 to 3 inches in length. They are sturdy, heavy bodied fish with small mouths and a lateral line that stops under the dorsal fin. They are generally dull in color, with dark bodies and a slight brass tint on the sides. They prefer ponds and slow moving water in streams. They can tolerate muddy water, and are occasionally found in roadside ditches. In addition, fathead minnows can tolerate water with salt in it.

Golden Shiners - The golden shiner can be found throughout most of the US. These fish can be found in large schools around submerged structures where they primarily feed on zooplankton. The golden shiner spawns several times throughout spring and summer. Spawning can be aided with the use of structures such as sunken evergreens or stacked pallets. The abundant reproduction of this fish makes it an excellent choice for stocking where predatory species are present. These fish are slightly larger than fathead minnows and are preferred by large predators.

Triploid Grass Carp - The grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) is one of the largest members of the minnow family, commonly reaching weights in excess of 25 lbs. They can live up to 10 years. Native to Asia, this carp lacks the barbells and spiny dorsal and anal fin rays characteristic of its North American relatives, bearing a closer resemblance to a large creek chub. It is called "triploid" since it has been bred to retain an extra chromosome, rendering it sterile. Grass carp feed strictly by grazing on aquatic vegetation and are effectively used as aquatic plant control agents in over 50 countries.

Agricultural Assessment Reminder

Are you a farmer, or a rural resident that rents to a farmer? Did you know that if you fit the criteria, it's possible to reduce your property taxes?

FIRST, speak with your Town Assessor about applying for an Agricultural Value Assessment. The Assessor can let you know if you are eligible and give you the necessary paperwork. Part of the required paperwork asks for a Soil Group Worksheet Form RA-100 for each parcel. Our office assists in the completion of this form. We charge \$25 per parcel.

For the District to complete this, please bring the following information from your Assessor: Copy of your most current tax map showing your property boundaries and total acreage; Your SBL/Tax ID # AND; Know if your parcel is already in an agricultural district or if you'll be listed as "individual commitment"

Remember that your Assessor needs this completed by March 1st, so please get your request to us at least one week in advance to be sure it is completed in time. Thank you for your help in making this process easier for all.

Board of Directors Changing in 2015

Sadly, two longstanding Directors will be saying farewell in January:

Barry Butski started with the District in 1989 as the Technician, left in 1994 as the Manager, and while working in the private sector took a position on the Board as a Director in 2002. **Dick Lang** is well-known to the area as a retired DEC officer, wrestling coach and town supervisor - just to name a few of his many careers. In 2008 we asked him to add Director to his list of accomplishments. Both of these men have spent countless hours promoting agriculture, conservation and District programs. Their dedication is much appreciated by the Board, Staff and county residents. They will be missed!

Two qualified individuals have been respectfully nominated to the County Legislature for appointment:

Gerald Farnham has previously served on the Board as the Legislative Representative from 1998 to 2011. He will bring to the Board his knowledge of farming, understanding of Soil and Water functions, and experience in town, county and state government.

Scott White of Gasport View Dairy has experience managing a family farm operation. As a member of the younger farming community, we look forward to his outlook and enthusiasm for our various projects.

We look forward to their approval and welcoming them to our Board in January!