

Ponds



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There are three (3) things that you need to know before you can effectively stock and fish from your pond.

You will need to know the: Depth, Temperature, and the Size. To determine these three items you can follow the easy instructions below.

Depth - You really need to know the depth of your pond as this is one of the factors that will determine the carrying capacity of the pond. Your carrying capacity is not determined by the number of fish you have, but by the pounds of fish. To determine your depth all you need to do is wait for a nice hot day and float around the pond with a rope that has a weight on the end. Take the measurement in several places.

Temperature - You need to do more than just throw a thermometer in the water, if you do the above, you won't get an accurate temperature. A good way to do this is to take a coffee can and attach a string to it. Put some small rocks in the can so it will sink; put some water in the can and your thermometer. Be sure you put the top back on the can. Now you can sink the can in your pond. Leave the can in your pond for a few hours, this will allow the water in your can to get to the same temperature as the water at the bottom of the pond. Pull up the can after several hours and record your temperature.

Size - The size of your pond is very important. It will help you determine how many fish you should stock. If you overstock your pond too much mortality will occur during stress periods, yet if you stock too few they will be too well fed and too well spread out. This will make them harder to catch and not a lot of fun. The size of your pond is also important in the event that you have to treat your pond for algae or weed control. To calculate the surface area of your pond just follow the formulas below.

Rectangular Ponds - Length times width - this will give you the square feet of surface area.

Circular Ponds - πR^2 . π is 3.14, R is the radius or 1/2 the diameter. Again this will give you the square feet of surface area.

One acre is 43,560 square feet.

Stocking Amounts -

400-500 = 2-4" per surface acre

300-400 = 4-6" per surface acre

200-300 = 6-8" per surface acre

Special Links of Interest

Fish Stocking permit - <http://www.gcswwcd.com/pond/stocking/stockingpermit>

Pond Management Services - <http://www.gcswwcd.com/pond/>

NYS DEC <http://www.dec.state.ny.us>

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Getting to know your Trout



Rainbow Trout



Brown Trout



Brook Trout

Rainbow Trout



- One of the best fish to use when stocking your pond. They can withstand temperatures of 70 degrees.
- Primarily insectivores. If you want to restock your pond with smaller trout you can, even if you have larger rainbows already stocked.
- Rapid growth rate—they can grow over 25".
- Rainbows can live in your pond for about 6 years.
- An acrobatic fish when hooked - they can easily leap into the air three or four times their body length.
- Rainbow trout are fairly easy to catch.
- This fish will spawn in the spring while the others spawn in the fall.

Brown Trout



- Browns will also live well in your pond, and can withstand temperatures of 70 degrees.
- Moderate growth rate - but they can grow over 25".
- Browns are piscivorous - they will eat other fish. If you are restocking you will want to go with a larger size brown so they will not be eaten.
- This type of trout can also live in your pond for about 6 years.
- Bigger Browns are usually found in the deeper water.
- This species of fish is very hard to catch

Brook Trout



- Brook Trout is NYS's Official State Fish
- Brooks will not do well in a pond that is over 65 degrees. They require colder water, therefore they should only be stocked in ponds that do not lose their water level during dry periods.
- While brooks are not predators' like the brown are, they still will eat some of the smaller fish.
- Brooks will live for about 4 years in your pond, yet they don't typically grow over 17 or 18" in length.
- Moderate growth rate - and the easiest of the trout to catch.