Your Guide To

POND MANAGEMENT

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MANAGING PONDS FOR FISHING

Stocking
Feeding
Fishing
STOCKING FISH

Is pond renovation your first step?

- Removal of unwanted fish species
- Removal of unwanted plants/planting desirable plants
- Address water quality issues
Stocking Desirable Species

Largemouth Bass

Bluegill

Redear Sunfish

Channel Catfish

Photo credits: Duane Raver Jr.
Fighting to keep vegetation low? White Amur (Grass Carp) are a sterile species of fish that can be stocked to control aquatic vegetation. Must obtain permit from FDACS.

photo credits: Duane Raver Jr.
Crappie/Speckled Perch

Brown Bullheads or Common Carp

WHAT NOT TO STOCK

Some fish species wreak havoc in your pond. Do not purposefully stock these species, if they are present in your pond now, consider a renovation.
WHAT SIZES TO STOCK

New or Reclaimed Ponds:

Stock Fingerlings: 1-4 inch fish.
Harvestable fish in 1-2 years,
Least expensive,
Not a viable option if adult fish are present in pond.

Established Ponds or Desire to Have Sizeable Fish Faster:

Stock Larger Fish: 4-12 inches.
Harvestable fish in less than a year,
Most expensive,
May be only option if adult fish are in the pond and a renovation is not desirable.
HOW MANY TO STOCK
per acre

New or Reclaimed Ponds:

Stock Fingerlings: 1-4 inch fish.
100 Bass
500 Bluegill (no more than 150 Red-Ear Sunfish)
100 Catfish

Established Ponds or Desire to Have Sizeable Fish Faster:

Stock Larger Fish: 4-12 Inches.
50 8-12 inch Bass
200 4-5 inch Bluegill (no more than 60 Red-Ear Sunfish)
50-100 8-12 inch Catfish
WHEN TO STOCK

Time of year is important when stocking a pond.

Bluegill/Red-Ear Sunfish

Stock in the Fall.
This allows one spawning before bass (predatory species) are stocked and provides a good food supply for the bass.

Channel Catfish

Stock in the Fall.
This allows catfish to grow to a size that bass are unlikely to eat before bass are stocked.

Largemouth Bass

Stock in the Spring, after catfish & bluegill are stocked.
This allows bass to have a ready food source but will still allow bluegill & catfish populations to maintain themselves.
FEEDING YOUR FISH

Feed Floating Pellets
Start with 2 lbs per acre
Do not feed more than the fish eat in 10-15 minutes
Do not feed if water temperature is above 95 or below 60

FISHING YOUR POND

Restrict access to pond for first few years.
Do not overharvest bass
Harvest bass 15 inches or larger
Fish must be harvested to maintain population levels
Harvest 25 lbs per acre of bass (per year) and 4-6 lbs of sunfish for every lb of bass.
IMPORTANCE OF AERATION

Aeration can provide practical solutions to water quality issues.
Benefits:

Risk of fish kill due to low oxygen levels is lowered,
High production per acre,
Mixing of water,
Often improved water quality.
WAYS TO AERATE PONDS
PLANTS FOR THE POND SHORELINE

Vegetation can increase attractiveness of pond, help filter pond water, and reduce runoff, among other benefits.

Duval County: USDA Zone 9a
Water Edge Zone
Water Edge Zone
Bank Slope Zone
HURRICANE PREP & RECOVERY

How to care for ponds before & after the storm.
PREPARATION

Ponds can take a beating from heavy storms, here are some tips to ease the pain.
ADDRESS ANY EROSION ISSUES
PICK UP DEBRIS IN & AROUND YOUR POND
DRAIN POND SLIGHTLY TO REDUCE RISK OF FLOODING
Ponds can take a beating from heavy storms, here are some tips to ease the pain.
STEPS TO RECOVER YOUR POND

01 Test Water (pH & Hardness)

02 Get Aeration Going.

03 Remove small & large debris.

04 Prepare to handle a small to large fish kill.
Q & A SESSION

Let's discuss issues you are having in your pond and ways to address them!