

CHANNEL CATFISH SPAWNING DEVICES

Channel catfish may be induced to reproduce in farm ponds by providing spawning containers. They do better in ponds one surface acre or larger. In large ponds one spawning device per surface acre is usually adequate. A coat of asphaltic paint on inside and outside will prevent rusting and provide a darker environment for spawning. Similar type containers other than those listed may also be used.

1. Place the open end of the container toward the center of the pond and elevate it slightly.
2. Air pockets that form in containers with curved sides may be eliminated by drilling a small hole.
3. Containers should be kept at a depth of three to four feet. Move to water of this depth during periods of low water elevation.
4. The location of each container should be suitably marked to facilitate annual cleaning and maintenance prior to spawning season.



Ten-gallon milk cans are the most widely used devices for catfish spawning.



A discarded container used by ice plants for commercial production of ice may be used.



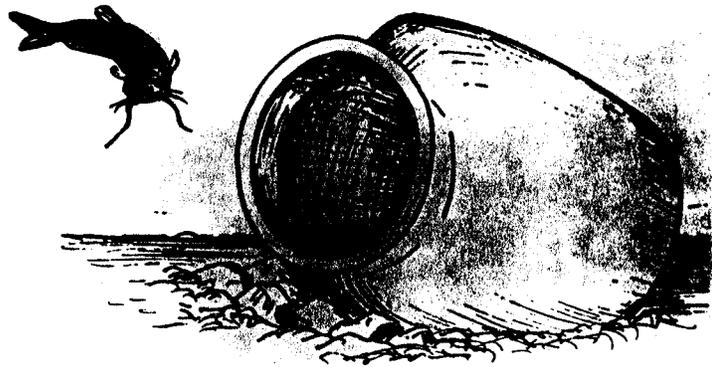
A three- to four-foot section of used 12-inch culvert pipe makes a suitable device. One end should be closed.



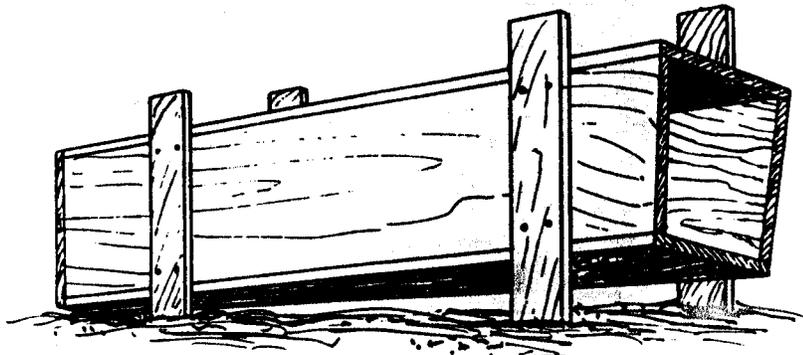
Almost any type container that is approximately three feet long and is closed on one end may be used.

Channel catfish usually reach sexual maturity in good quality water at about 3 years of age or when they weigh 3 to 4 pounds.

Extremely muddy and infertile waters usually produce such small amounts of food that the fish may never have enough nourishment to spawn.



Earthenware containers are manufactured especially for spawning devices.



A box 3' x 1' x 1' may be constructed from 1" x 12" decay-resistant lumber and used instead of metal containers.