

## FISHPOND STOCKING (398)

### Standards

- Definition:** Stocking impounded waters with sport fish, bait fish, food fish, crayfish, and other aquatic animals.
- Application:** Fishpond stocking is applicable to ponds having suitable water supplies, water quality, area, depth, and watershed protection for satisfactory production of fish.
- Purposes:** Initial establishment, re-establishment, or adjustment of fish populations to:
- Furnish sport and recreation.
  - Furnish food for human consumption.
  - Provide commercial crops of bait or other fish.

### Specifications

- Preference in stocking should be given to trout wherever there are reasonable expectations of success.
- Recommended trout (brook or rainbow) stocking rates per surface acre are:
  - 300 to 600 fall fingerlings, biennially\*
  - 600 spring fingerlings, biennially
  - 600 legal-sized fish, annually

\*300 is the rate furnished by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
- Warm-water ponds are stocked with largemouth bass and bluegill sunfish at the rate of 100 fingerling bass for 500 fingerling bluegills. As an alternative, 100 fingerling bass to 300 adult golden shiners may be stocked. When available, 10 to 15 adult bass may be added in the spring after initial stocking. Only fingerlings are available from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. BLUEGILLS WILL NOT BE STOCKED IN RHODE ISLAND IN PONDS WITH OVERFLOW.
- Assistance to pond owners includes:
  - Determination of the suitability of the pond for coldwater or warmwater fish.
  - Determination to the nearest 1/10 acre, of pond surface area as a basis for stocking.
  - Furnishing Fish Request Form No. 3-1688 and helping district cooperators request fish, including transmittal of the request of the State Board of Fisheries and Game.
  - Assistance in distributing fish for stocking.
  - Informing pond owners on harvesting schedules.
  - Informing pond owners on obtaining private water registrations.
  - Referring pond management problems to State Fish Biologists.