

## Deadline to Order Fish ~ April 20, 2016

The Mercer Soil and Water Conservation District is offering new and established pond owners the opportunity to stock their ponds more conveniently. This is a great opportunity for anyone planning to stock their pond in the near future. Fish species available are listed below in the order form. If size of fish cannot be obtained, your order will be filled with equal value of fish of same variety.



**Pick-Up Date ~ Wednesday, April 27, 2016**  
**Mercer Soil & Water Conservation District Office**  
**from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.**



To order, return this form along with payment. Please make checks payable to: Mercer Soil and Water Conservation District, 220 W. Livingston Street, Suite #1, Celina, OH 45822. The fish will be delivered in boxes ready for pick-up on April 27, 2016. Payment must accompany each order. **Fish are guaranteed to be in good condition at time of delivery; however, we cannot guarantee survival after stocked in your pond.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size (inches)</u>	<u># in Box</u>	<u>Cost per Box</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Bluegill	3-5	25	\$21.00		
Hybrid Bluegill	3-5	25	\$21.00		
	5-7	20	\$37.00		
Redear Shellcracker	3-5	25	\$23.00		
Black Crappie	3-5	25	\$28.00		
Channel Catfish	4-6	25	\$21.00		
Jumbo Yellow Perch	4-6	25	\$39.00		
Large Mouth Bass	2-4	25	\$26.00		
	4-6	25	\$44.00		
White Amur	8-12	2	\$28.00		
Black Fathead Minnow	1-3	500	\$37.00		
<b>Total Amount Due</b>					

# Fish Descriptions

**Bluegill** - The bluegill feeds almost exclusively on insects and will also eat commercial fish food. Bluegills begin to spawn in late spring and will spawn 3-4 times throughout the summer. These spawn are primarily used as a forage base for predators, such as large mouth bass.

**Hybrid Bluegill** - Bluegills prefer to eat insects, but they sometimes eat small fish. The hybrid bluegill, a cross between a green sunfish and bluegill, is a fish that is stronger and grows faster than the regular bluegill. As a result of hybridization, 90% of the fish are males, reducing the chance of an overpopulation problem.

**Redear Shellcracker** - The redear is the southern cousin of the bluegill. Their spawning is similar to bluegills, but produce fewer offspring. Usually stocked in combination with large mouth bass and bluegill because they rarely provide enough food for large mouth bass by themselves. Growth is similar to that of a bluegill.

**Black Crappie** - Black crappie closely resemble white crappie, but have deeper bodies. Their most reliable characteristic is having seven or eight dorsal spines. Generally, black crappie prefer clear water containing aquatic vegetation. They are less tolerant of silt and turbidity than white crappie. Black crappie spawn during May and June in Ohio.

**Channel Catfish** - Channel Catfish are often considered "bonus fish" because they don't interfere with the other pond fish, but do provide extra fishing and harvest opportunities. Channel catfish are most at home in large streams, lakes or reservoirs, but they also survive and grow very well when stocked in ponds. These fish are primarily bottom feeders, preferring to live on dead insects, crayfish, fish, and even aquatic plants.

**Jumbo Yellow Perch** - Jumbo Yellow Perch are sought after for the good tasting fillets. Their primary food is zooplankton, insects, snails and small fish. They are considered prey rather than predators. Reproduction occurs on tree-like structures in water depths of 1 - 6 feet. One year old fish range in size from 1 - 4 inches and become sexually mature at 5 - 12 inches.

**Large Mouth Bass** - The Large Mouth Bass is the top predator in Ohio ponds. As large mouth bass grow, they switch to a diet of insects, crayfish, and small fish. Adult large mouth bass in ponds usually eat bluegills and small large mouth bass, although their diets can be quite varied. Most large mouth bass live from four to six years, but some may live to 10 years old or more.

**White Amur** - Unlike large mouth bass, bluegills, and catfish, white amur are not stocked for sport or to eat but rather to control or eliminate nuisance aquatic vegetation. Natural spawning is impossible in standing water so the source of all fish for stocking is from artificial propagation. Growth of white amur is quite rapid, young fish stocked in the spring at 8 inches will reach over 18 inches by the fall.

**Black Fathead Minnow** - Black Fathead Minnows are added to ponds as a source of food for other species. They can spawn many times throughout the spring and summer. The use of stacked pallets and trees can create spawning habitats. One year olds range in size from .5 - 3 inches and become sexually mature at 1 - 3 inches. Restocking is necessary if none are visible in pond.