



McHenry-Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District

Spring 2026 Fish Sale (Illinois Customers Only)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Order Deadlines:

Triploid Grass Carp = March 31, 2026

All other fish = April 9, 2026

Order Pickup: April 23, 2026, at 10:00 am

Pickup Location: 2222 Dean St.
Woodstock, IL 60098

Please send order form and check payable to:

McHenry-Lake County SWCD
1648 S. Eastwood Dr.
Woodstock, IL 60098
Phone: 815-338-0444 x 3

Species	Size	Sold in multiples of:	Sales Unit	Unit Cost	Unit Quantity	Total \$
Black Crappie	2 - 4"	50	50	\$ 60.00		
Bluegill	2 - 4"	50	50	\$ 51.00		
Channel Catfish	4 - 6"	10	10	\$ 10.00		
Hybrid Bluegill	2 - 4"	50	50	\$ 51.00		
Largemouth Bass	2 - 4"	10	10	\$ 24.00		
	4 - 6"	10	10	\$ 47.00		
Redear Sunfish	2 - 4"	50	50	\$ 51.00		
Triploid Grass Carp*	8 - 11"	1	1	\$ 18.00		
Rainbow Trout**	5 - 8"	10	10	\$ 33.00		
Fathead Minnow	Mix	5 lbs	5 lbs	\$ 59.00		
Golden Shiner	Mix	4 lbs	4 lbs	\$ 63.00		
Order Total						

All Fish will be boxed; separate containers will not be required for transport. Fish descriptions from our supplier are located on the next page.

**Trout requires water to remain at 70 degrees Fahrenheit or below for survival.

*If ordering Triploid Grass Carp we will need the following stocking information for permitting:

Pond Owner's Name and Phone: _____

*Contact Name and Phone (if not owner): _____

Physical Address of pond: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____ Acreage of Pond: _____ Do you have 100% Ownership of Pond Yes/No _____

Black Crappie: Female Black Crappie can generate 60,000 eggs/pound of body weight, which leads to their boom or bust nature. It is common to see them overpopulate in a pond, and then in a few years, they can just about disappear. Generally, we recommend not stocking this fish in smaller ponds because of their unpredictable nature. Small crappie find plenty of natural food in ponds, such as zooplankton, insect larvae, snails, and leech, but adult Black Crappie feed mainly on small fish, and will not take fish pellets. If you would like to stock Black Crappie, we recommend up to 200 per Surface Acre for an initial stocking.

Bluegill is a favorite with kids and adults alike and is probably the best-known member of the sunfish family. The only drawback with this species is its tendency to overpopulate. You must maintain a strong population of Largemouth Bass to keep the Bluegill in balance. And when you harvest the Bluegill, you should keep the most abundant size class, not the biggest ones. When this is done, Bluegill can have tremendous growth rates and provide many meals for the fisherman. Bluegill feed on a wide variety of organisms, and they will take fish pellets if trained. We recommend stocking 100 per surface acre if no Bass are present, or 300 per surface acre if stocked in combination with Bass. 3-5" stocked in the spring will likely spawn that same year, but 2-3" may not, and 5-7" are not always available. Because of this, the 3-5" stocking size is the most popular.

Channel Catfish: If you would like to add diversity to your pond without upsetting the natural balance, Channel Catfish is a safe stocking choice. Because their natural spawning habitat is hollowed-out riverbanks, there is very little chance that they will reproduce and overpopulate in a pond or lake. If you want them to spawn, which can be risky, you can put large culvert pipe or other structure on the bottom of the pond. Channel Catfish are considered omnivorous, which means that they will eat just about anything, and as such they will readily take pellets. Fertile ponds can handle up to 200 per Surface Acre, but their feeding behavior may cause poor water clarity. If you want to maintain clear water, we recommend that you stock about 50 to 100 per Surface Acre.

Hybrid Bluegill is a cross between a male Bluegill and a female Green Sunfish and is sometimes referred to as a Hybrid Sunfish. As a result of the cross, the Hybrid Bluegill is ~80-90% male, and has a reduced reproductive potential, making it an ideal choice for those ponds prone to Bluegill stunting. The Hybrid Bluegill is a voracious feeder, depending mostly on insects, zooplankton and very small fish. For this reason, they should only be stocked in ponds with a strong forage base. They will feed aggressively on fish pellets so you can set up automatic feeders to boost growth rates. Generally, we recommend 300-500 Hybrid Bluegill per Surface Acre in ponds 2 acres or smaller for an initial stocking. You should plan on restocking them at least every 3 or 4 years because the population will gradually decline because of their reduced reproductive potential.

Largemouth Bass is one of the fish most sought after by anglers and is also very well suited for stocking in most mid-western ponds. If Largemouth Bass fish are provided with an adequate food supply, you can expect tremendous growth rates. Fish, crayfish, frogs, and large insects make up their diet. They will take high protein pellets if they are trained at about 2" in size, but you generally cannot train them at advanced sizes. This species is commonly used to control populations of Bluegill in ponds and lakes by stocking approximately 100 per Surface Acre. We recommend less than that (about 75 per Surface Acre) in Hybrid Bluegill ponds. Largemouth Bass will reproduce in most

ponds and usually will not control their own population if stocked alone. This can lead to stunting and is very difficult to correct. By stocking Hybrid Bluegill or regular Bluegill at our recommended rates, you can usually achieve a natural balance between predator and prey, but occasional harvest of the most abundant size class may be necessary.

Redear Sunfish is a popular choice for pond stockings because it can grow to a large size, it tends not to overpopulate, and it eats snails, which are the intermediate host of several fish parasites. However, Wisconsin DNR will not allow Redear stockings, and severe winters in the upper Midwest may kill them in certain water bodies. We generally recommend only stocking this species in ponds and lakes that have deeper basins that will prevent extremely cold winter water temperatures, which commonly occur in small shallow ponds. Also, Redear Sunfish tend to do best in water bodies with vegetated shorelines and clear water (probably because this is preferred environment for its primary food sources: insect larvae & snails). When stocking to control snails, we have typically introduced as many as 500 per surface acre in the spring. When stocking to add diversity to a water-body, 100 per surface acre is a more typical amount.

Triploid Grass Carp are reproductively sterile fish that feed on aquatic vegetation. They can grow to be very large (50+ pounds), and they will live for many years. The State recommends these stocking numbers: 20-40% of pond covered with weeds – stock 5 Triploid Grass Carp/surface acre; 40-60% of pond covered with weeds – stock 10 Triploid Grass Carp/surface acre; Over 60% of pond covered with weeds – stock 15 Triploid Grass Carp/surface acre.

Rainbow Trout is a great fish to stock if you plan on ice fishing. Keep every trout you catch for dinner though, because they generally will not live through the summer. Sustained temperatures over 72°F will prove fatal. Many ponds and lakes do have bottom water below 72°F through the summer, but often there is an oxygen depletion, which renders this cool water useless. Some deep rock quarry ponds can hold trout through the year, as well as ponds fed by cold flowing spring water. Stocking rates vary greatly based on available food and oxygen levels, but 50 pounds of trout per acre is usually no problem for a supplemental fall, winter, spring stocking.

Fathead Minnow is a small prolific minnow that spawns from the spring until late summer on the underside of nearly any material near the shore. Fathead Minnows eat a wide variety of aquatic organisms, from Mosquito larvae to algae, and they can withstand extremely low oxygen levels. We recommend stocking about 10 to 25 pounds per Surface Acre in new ponds without a forage base. If you have a pond full of Largemouth Bass, or other predators, it may take over 100 pounds per Surface Acre to establish a population.

Golden Shiner is the fish is known as a "mosquito larvae eater." Its up-turned mouth and surface/midwater feeding behavior ideally suit it for mosquito control. It is the most expensive of the forage species, but in weedy ponds it is the best suited to thrive. It is a great forage species for trophy Largemouth Bass ponds because of its size. Stock 10 to 25 pounds (there are about 40 to 80 per pound) per Surface Acre in new ponds that do not have predators yet. It may be necessary to stock about 100 pounds per Surface Acre in ponds with a Largemouth Bass Population.