

Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District

64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty, NY 12754
(845)292-6552 Ext. 101 Fax (845)295-9073

2021 ANNUAL FISH PROGRAM

If you are interested in stocking your pond with bass, minnows, or grass carp this spring, the District will be accepting orders until **Friday, July 2, 2021**. Orders can be placed by completing the order form attached and returning it to the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District office at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty, NY 12754. Full payment must accompany each order. Checks should be made payable to: **Sullivan County SWCD**.

BASS:

WATER TEMPERATURE: Bass do especially well in either cool or warm-water ponds where plants are present, but not abundant. **Cool-Water Ponds:** The temperature of the surface water exceeds 72° F., and ranges from 72° -75° F., but rises as high as 80° F. only for several days during the summer. **Warm-Water Ponds:** The temperature of the surface water ranges from 76° -80° F. during the hottest part of the summer and exceeds 80° F. for a week or more.

FISH STOCKING: Bass should be stocked at a rate of 50 – 75 fish per acre, along with forage fish such as fathead minnows. Bass alone will provide a fishable population; however, growth rate and size will be smaller if forage fish are not stocked. Minnows should be stocked at a rate of 1,000 per acre. In most ponds under one acre area, bass predation usually eliminates the forage fish within a four-year period. Bass populations will continue indefinitely without any other fish species present.

FISH SPAWNING: Bass normally first reproduce as two-year-olds. Once they have reproduced, bass will spawn successfully each succeeding year in shallow water during early summer when the water temperature reaches approximately 71° F. Most bottom materials are suitable for spawning.

Bass should not be fished until two years after stocking. Experiments have shown that the average bass-forage fishpond should support harvests of about 22 bass per surface acre per year from the second through the fourth summer after stocking. Thereafter, the bass spawned in the pond should be fished at about the same rate.

MINNOWS:

FISH STOCKING: Minnows should be stocked at a rate of 1,000 per acre. In most ponds under one acre area, bass predation usually eliminates the forage fish within a four-year period. Fathead minnows reproduce the year following stocking and each year thereafter, so long as adults are present. Fathead minnows begin spawning in May when water temperatures reach 60° – 64° F. and continue throughout the summer. A bass

requires 8 lb. of live food to gain 1 lb. of body weight. Therefore, it is important to have a good forage fish population. It is also important for the minnows to have a cover to breed and hide in, such as grass and weeds. You can also create a space with small-holed wire, placing Christmas trees in the water, or a pile of rocks. The cover should be placed in the shallower areas of your pond no deeper than 4 or 5 feet of water.

TRIPLOID GRASS CARP: See attached sheet for more information.

Grass Carp are the largest members of the minnow family and commonly reach weights of 25 lbs. and eat only aquatic vegetation. Triploid grass carp are sterile form of grass carp. The grass carp can be used to maintain certain grass growth in your pond. Grass Carp need a separate permit from the Bass and Minnows. Anyone wanting Grass Carp should fill out the appropriate permit and mail it to the NYS DEC address listed on the permit. It will take a while to get the permit back from DEC, so you should mail the permit as soon as possible. A copy of the permit you filled out must be sent along with your order and payment. The permit from DEC must be brought with you when you come to pick up your fish. There should be three copies and you must bring all three if you did not send a copy in to me. Grass Carp are non-taxable.

DEC FISH STOCKING PERMIT:

Anyone stocking a pond with fish must apply for a Fish Stocking Permit through the NYS-DEC, Bureau of Fisheries. There is no charge for the permit. The permit allows owners to plan fish management to suit them. For your convenience, attached is an Application For a Permit to Stock Fish. Complete the application and mail it to the NYS-DEC Regional Office, Bureau of Fisheries, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY 12561. DEC will then send you a permit.

GRASS CARP need a separate permit that you will need to fill out and send to NYS-DEC. A grass carp permit is only good through the end of November of the same year received.

FISH DISTRIBUTION:

The District will be distributing the fish on **Friday, July 9, 2021**, in front of the pole barn behind the District office from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Important** – The fish will be bagged here with water and oxygen for \$1.00 a bag, payable at time of pick-up. One bag will hold about 500 minnows, 20-25 4-6” bass, 10-20 6-8” bass, or 2 grass carp. You should bring a container to transport your fish. A 5-gallon pail will hold one bag. A larger plastic container is also good for holding and supporting your bags.

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2021 ANNUAL FISH PROGRAM ORDER FORM

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____

Largemouth Bass (4"- 6") @ \$ 3.00 **Each** # of Fish _____ Amount \$ _____
 Largemouth Bass (6"- 8") @ \$ 4.25 **Each** # of Fish _____ Amount \$ _____
 Fathead Minnows (1"- 3") @ \$20.00 **Per 100** # of Fish _____ Amount \$ _____

Taxable Subtotal \$ _____

8% NYS Sales Tax Amount \$ _____

Grass Carp (8"- 13") @ \$20.00 **Each** # of Fish _____ Amount \$ _____
 (Grass Carp are not Taxable)

Handling fee \$ 5.00

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make checks payable to **Sullivan County SWCD.**

Fish Distribution: Friday, July 9, 2021 – (9:30 am – 10:30 am)

A **copy** of your Permit to Stock Fish or Grass Carp Permit should be sent along with your order form if possible. All Grass Carp orders **must** have their Grass Carp Permit from the NYS DEC with them at pick-up if they have not already sent them in to me.

Office use only:

Date Received	Verify	Check No.