

Your Guide To

POND MANAGEMENT

Alicia Halbritter
UF/IFAS Extension

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

MANAGING PONDS FOR FISHING

Stocking
Feeding
Fishing





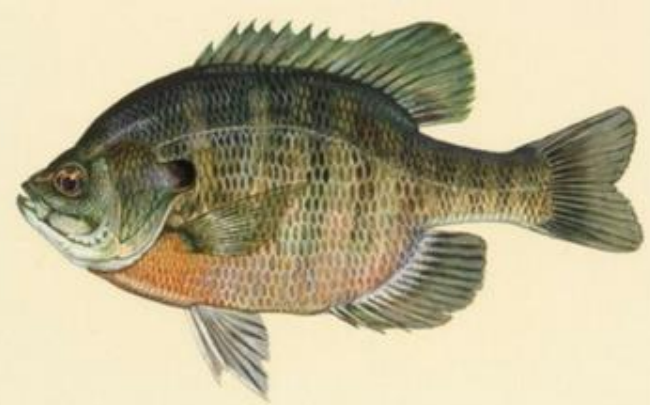
STOCKING FISH

Is pond renovation your first step?

- ***Removal of unwanted fish species***
- ***Removal of unwanted plants/planting desirable plants***
- ***Address water quality issues***



Largemouth Bass



Bluegill

Stocking Desirable Species

photo credits: Duane Raver Jr.

Redear Sunfish



Channel Catfish



BENEFICIAL SPECIES

Fighting to keep vegetation low? White Amur (Grass Carp) are a sterile species of fish that can be stocked to control aquatic vegetation. Must obtain permit from FDACS.

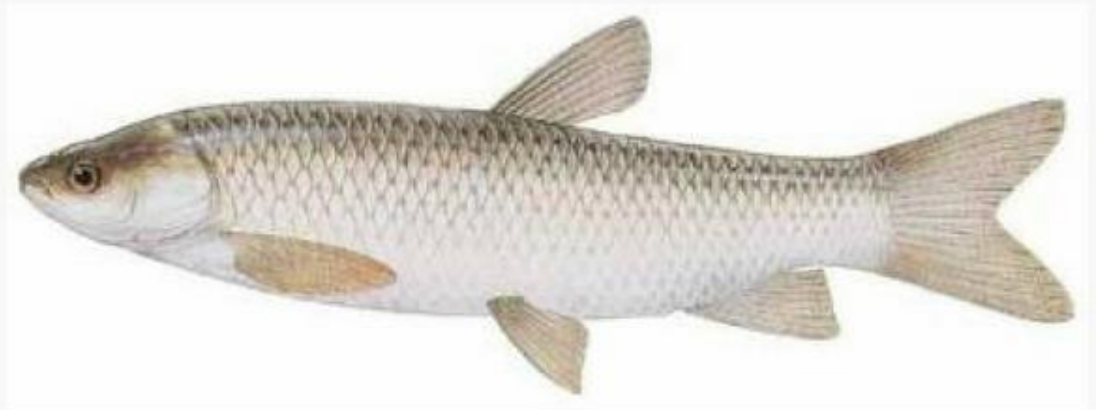
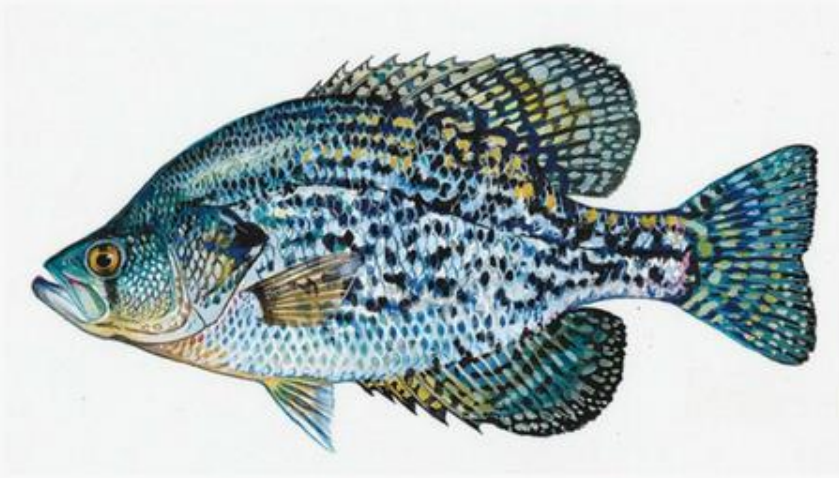


photo credits: Duane Raver Jr.



Crappie/Speckled Perch



Duane Raver - USFWS

Brown Bullheads
or Common Carp

WHAT NOT TO STOCK

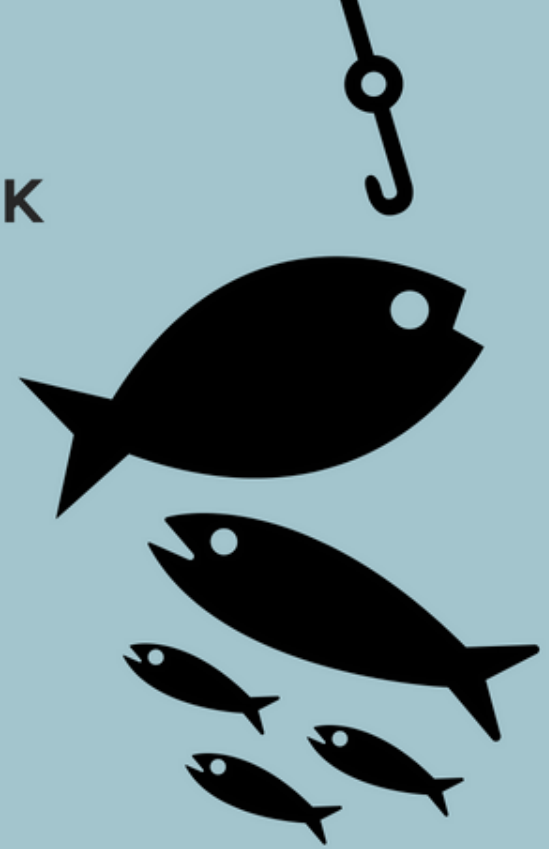
Some fish species wreak havoc in your pond. Do not purposefully stock these species, if they are present in your pond now, consider a renovation.

WHAT SIZES TO STOCK

New or Reclaimed Ponds:

Stock Fingerlings: 1-4 inch fish.

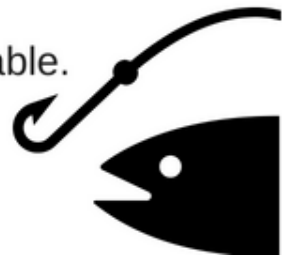
Harvestable fish in 1-2 years,
Least expensive,
Not a viable option if adult fish are present in pond.



Established Ponds or Desire to Have Sizeable Fish Faster:

Stock Larger Fish: 4-12 inches.

Harvestable fish in less than a year,
Most expensive,
May be only option if adult fish are in the pond and a renovation is not desirable.



HOW MANY TO STOCK

per acre

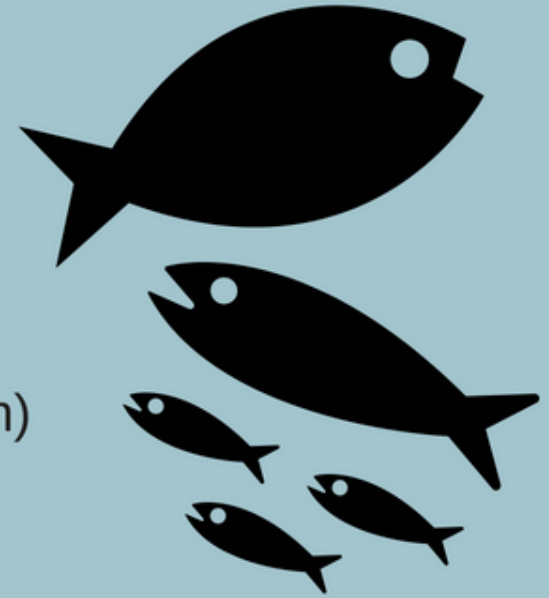
New or Reclaimed Ponds:

Stock Fingerlings: 1-4 inch fish.

100 Bass

500 Bluegill (no more than 150 Red-Ear Sunfish)

100 Catfish



Established Ponds or Desire to Have Sizeable Fish Faster:

Stock Larger Fish: 4-12 Inches.

50 8-12 inch Bass

200 4-5 inch Bluegill (no more than 60 Red-Ear Sunfish)

50-100 8-12 inch Catfish



WHEN TO STOCK

Time of year is important when stocking a pond.

Bluegill/Red-Ear Sunfish

Stock in the Fall.

This allows one spawning before bass (predatory species) are stocked and provides a good food supply for the bass.

Channel Catfish

Stock in the Fall.

This allows catfish to grow to a size that bass are unlikely to eat before bass are stocked.

Largemouth Bass

Stock in the Spring,
after catfish & bluegill are stocked.

This allows bass to have a ready food source but will still allow bluegill & catfish populations to maintain themselves.

FEEDING YOUR FISH

Feed Floating Pellets

Start with 2 lbs per acre

Do not feed more than the fish eat in 10-15 minutes

Do not feed if water temperature is above 95 or below 60



FISHING YOUR POND

Restrict access to pond for first few years.

Do not overharvest bass

Harvest bass 15 inches or larger

Fish must be harvested to maintain population levels

Harvest 25 lbs per acre of bass (per year) and 4-6 lbs of sunfish for every lb of bass.

IMPORTANCE OF AERATION

Aeration can provide practical solutions to water quality issues.





MAINTENANCE AERATION

Benefits:

Risk of fish kill due to low oxygen levels is lowered,

High production per acre,

Mixing of water,

Often improved water quality.

WAYS TO AERATE PONDS



PLANTS FOR THE POND SHORELINE

Vegetation can increase attractiveness of pond, help filter pond water, and reduce runoff, among other benefits.

Duval County:
USDA Zone 9a





0418267 © Mark Turner
www.turnerphotographics.com



Water Edge Zone



golden canna
Canna flaccida
Photo by Ann Murray
© 2008 University of Florida



Water Edge Zone





Bank Slope Zone





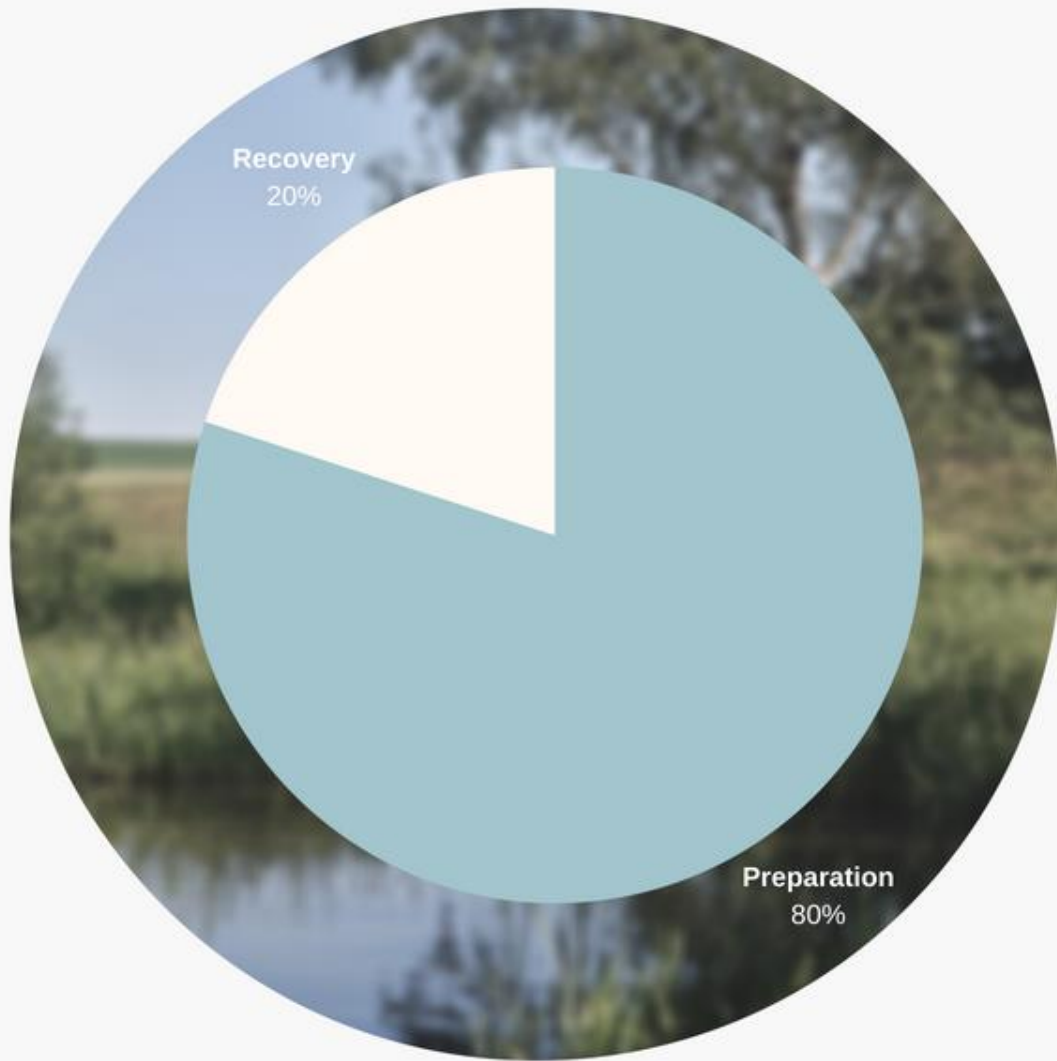
Bank Slope Zone



HURRICANE PREP & RECOVERY

How to care for ponds
before & after the
storm.





PREPARATION

Ponds can take a beating from heavy storms, here are some tips to ease the pain.



**ADDRESS ANY
EROSION
ISSUES**





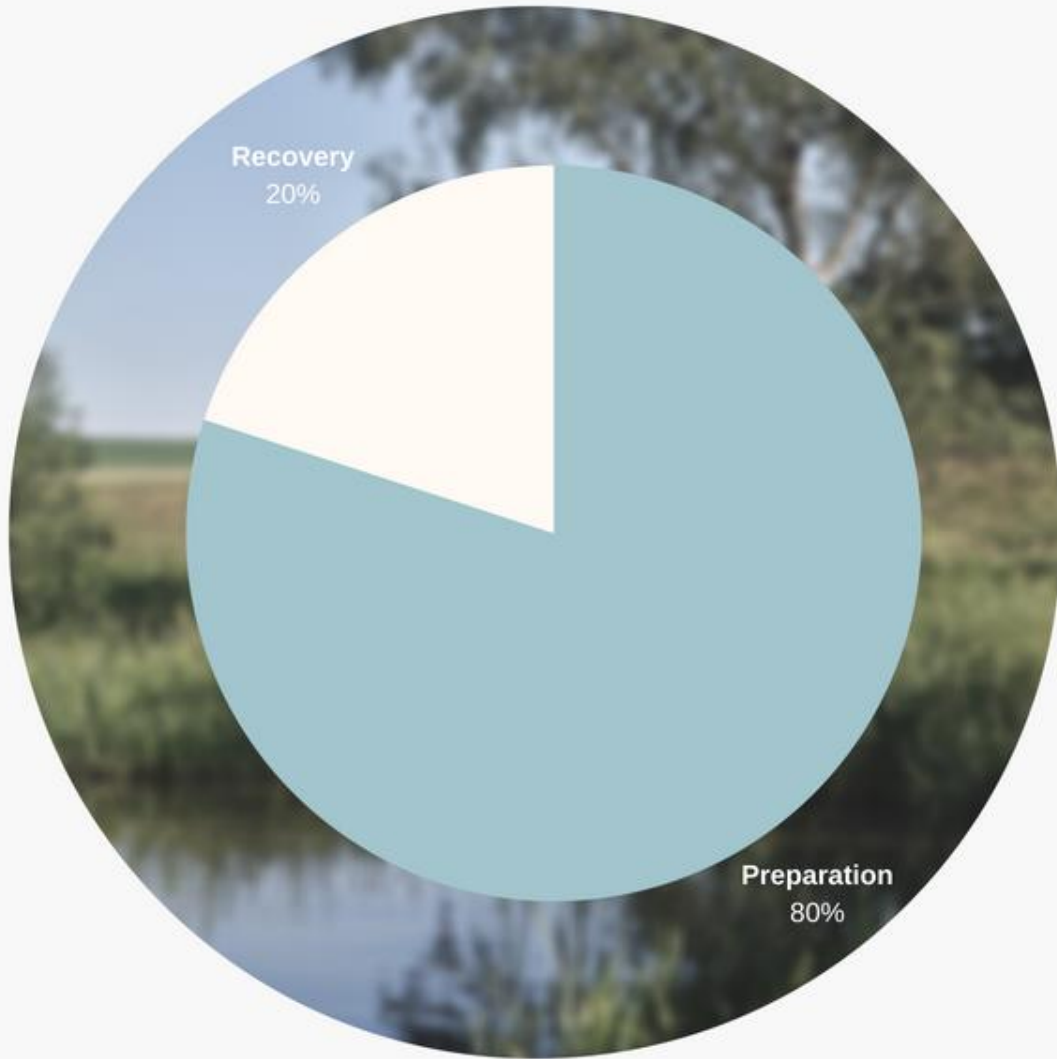
**PICK UP
DEBRIS IN &
AROUND YOUR
POND**





**DRAIN POND
SLIGHTLY TO
REDUCE RISK
OF FLOODING**





RECOVERY

Ponds can take a beating from heavy storms, here are some tips to ease the pain.

STEPS TO RECOVER YOUR POND

01 Test Water (pH & Hardness)

02 Get Aeration Going.

03 Remove small & large debris.

04 Prepare to handle a small to large fish kill.

Q & A SESSION

Lets discuss issues you are having in your pond and ways to address them!

