

Recreational Pond Management: How to improve sport fishing

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Ponds are built for some of the following purposes:



To establish good fishing: fish species you want!



**Objective: to produce harvest size
bluegill and largemouth bass**



Optional: red ear sunfish and channel catfish may be stocked

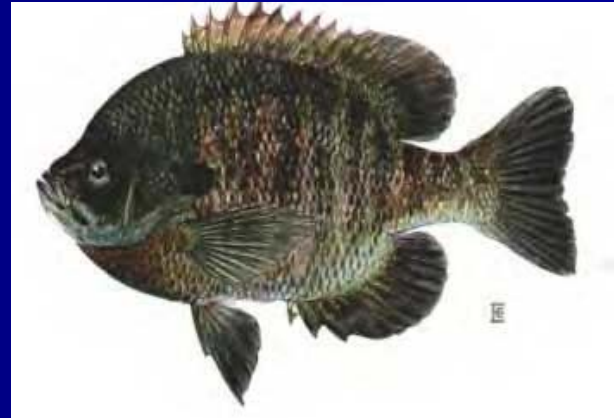


Fish Stocking Rates and Times

Forage base

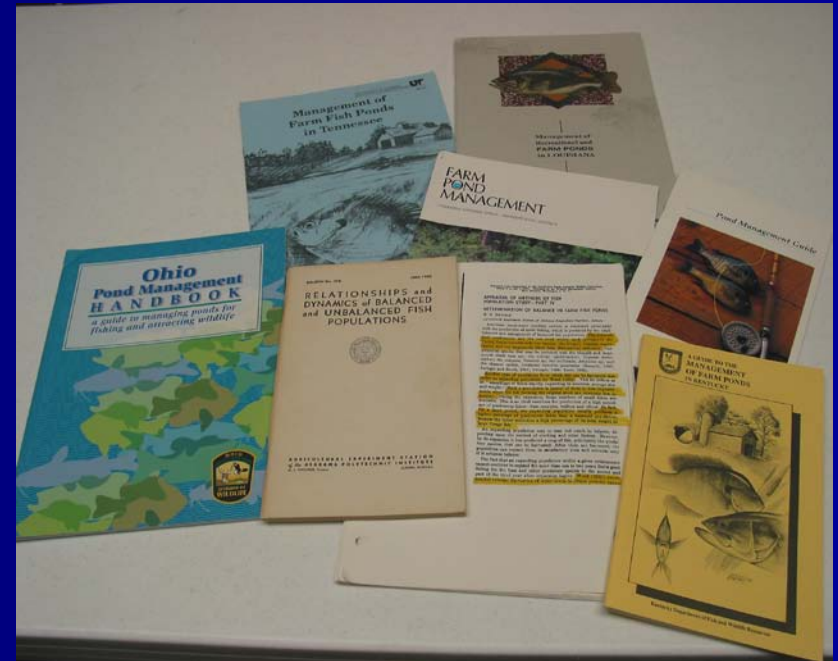


Proper steps in getting started:



Bass – Bluegill Pond Advantages

Stocking self sustaining bluegill and largemouth bass populations is a widely accepted fisheries management practice



How to determine if the fishing is good? **Fish the Pond!!!!**



Test seining to determine fish population balance



Young of year present?



Species you don't want!



Problems: Unbalanced fish populations

**Do not over harvest
largemouth bass!**



Lots of frogs and crawfish in your pond?



Reclaiming ponds with Rotenone



Primary management pond uses may conflict with fish production!

Not all ponds will support fish!



Quality fishing may be difficult to achieve in some ponds due to:



Optional inputs to increase fish production to 400 lbs/acre, or more



Agricultural Limestone



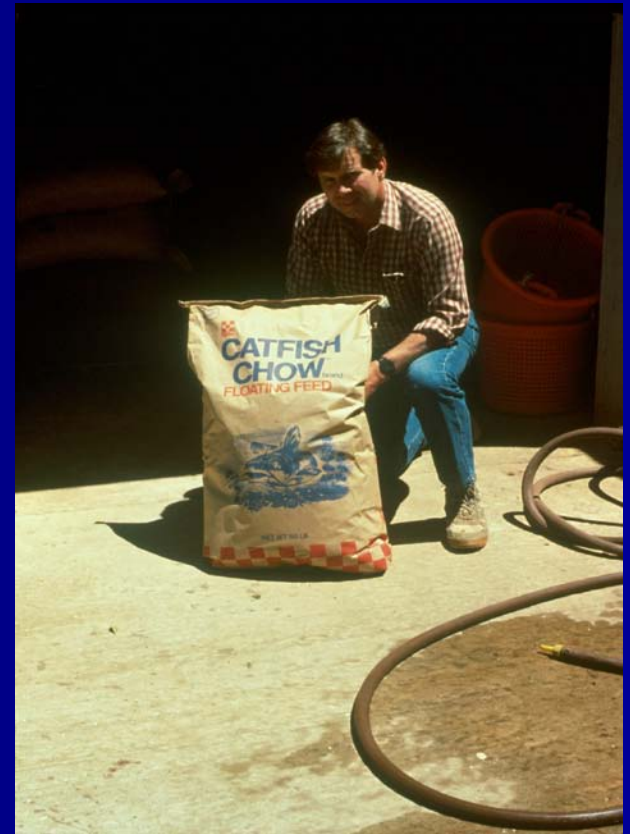
Gypsum or CaSO_4



Fertilization Program – Only if the Pond will be fished hard!



Feeding Fish



Aeration – Good Insurance!



Fence off livestock, or allow limited pond access where gravity fed water tanks can not be used!



Turtles don't hurt ponds!



Pond Management

Things to avoid:

Things to do:

Steps to control aquatic vegetation



Methods of control

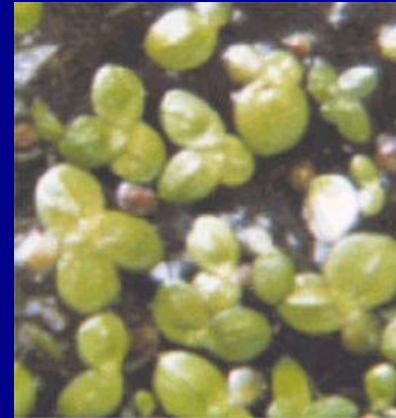
Filamentous algae control



Cattails, Rushes and Sedges



Duckweeds



Water Lily and Watershield



Watermeal



Water Primrose



Pondweeds



**Expert advice is of great comfort – even
when it's wrong...**

