

# FISH MANAGEMENT IN WARM WATER & COLD WATER PONDS

## 1. Largemouth Bass Fishing Protocols

Once a pond has been established and fish have spawned once, fish the pond moderately or heavily to maintain a good population balance

Start fishing bass in the third year in early June

Return all bass under 10-inches

Fish bluegill heavily and remove 3-4 pounds of bluegill for every pound of bass removed

Usually, removing 25 to 35 pounds of fish per year leads to a well-balanced pond

## 2. Assessing Condition of Bass and Lesser Sunfish

### Examination of Catch

**BALANCED**      Bluegill average 6-inches;  
Bass average weight is 1 to 2-pounds

**BLUEGILL UP**      Bluegill range is 3 to 5-inches;  
Bass few, and weigh 2-pounds or more

**BASS UP**              Bluegill are ½-pound or larger;  
Bass average less than 1-pound

### Shoreline Seining in Mid-Summer

**Balance:**      Presence of young bass and bluegill

**Imbalance:** Presence of many intermediate-sized bass; 3” to 5”

# **FISH MANAGEMENT IN TROUT PONDS**

## **1. Rainbow Trout Supplementary Feeding**

**Feed according to feed dealer recommendations; about 3 percent of estimated body weight**

**No feeding below 55F**

**Feed about 3 percent of estimated body weight at 55F to 65F**

**Above 65F, no feeding**

**In cooler weather, go to afternoon feeding during warmer portion of the day**

**Do not fertilizer a pond receiving a feeding ration**

**Feed trout fingerlings twice a day as the by splitting the recommended amount**

## **2. Rainbow Trout Fishing Protocols**

**Using good management and no supplementary feed, the pond usually reaches its carrying capacity in a year.**

**Unless fish moderately or hard, there will be little fish growth in the second year**

**Start fishing when the trout are 6 to 8-inches in length**

**Early in the second year the trout should be between 12 and 14-inches, and weigh about 1-pound**

### **3. Rainbow Trout Restocking Strategies**

**Ponds stocked in the Fall will have many small, but usable fish the first year**

**Fish lightly and you will have many 1 ¾ to 2-pound fish in the first year**

**After 2-pounds, growth may be slower and mortalities may increase**

**Spawning seldom occurs in ponds, unless there is a stream containing a riffle-area entering the pond**

**Fish hard and restock with 5 to 5-inch fingerlings every two years**

**Fish lightly, and you can restock less frequently**

**Natural mortality of stocked trout is usually characteristically high, averaging at least 50 percent per year in un-fished ponds, even though dead fish are seldom seen**