

Albino Catfish



The distinctive white body and red eye coloring of the **Albino Catfish** are what give it its name. With a versatile and adaptive ability to survive and thrive in a range of fresh water acidity and temperature, they may be the most widely fished "breed" of all catfish in North America.

Albino Catfish will be approx. 4-6" in length when delivered and will grow naturally in the habitat once released. Average weight: 10-15 pounds; Average length: 17 inches

Channel Catfish



The **channel catfish** is basically a stream fish that usually reaches its greatest abundance in fast-flowing, sand and gravel-bottomed rivers of medium to large size. It can tolerate a wide range of conditions and has been stocked in many ponds, lakes and reservoirs. They can be found in nearly all waters in Illinois! The channel catfish takes most of its food from the bottom, and its diet is highly varied, including fish, insects, mollusks, and plant material. Average Length: 18"

Largemouth Bass



The **largemouth bass** is a freshwater gamefish native to North America. Juveniles eat mostly insects. Adults consume smaller fish, shad, snails, crawfish, frogs, snakes, salamanders, bats, and even small water birds and mammals. Prey items can be as large as 50% of the bass's body length or larger! In larger lakes and reservoirs, adult bass occupy deeper water than younger fish.

Bluegill



Bluegill can be found across the state of Illinois and are in nearly every water body, although they prefer clear lakes and ponds with aquatic vegetation or other structural features (wood or rocks). They prefer warm waters but will move to deeper, cooler waters when temperatures rise. They'll eat almost any food source that fits in their mouth, including aquatic insects and larvae, crayfish, leeches, snails, and worms.

Hybrid Sunfish



Hybrid sunfish are usually the offspring of a male bluegill crossed with female green sunfish. Behavior of these hybrids tends to be more aggressive than either parent species, making them more competitive feeders and more vulnerable to anglers.

For genetic reasons, virtually all hybrids are male. Therefore, reproduction by hybrid sunfish is very limited and is nearly always the result of mating to either bluegill or green sunfish. To maintain hybrid populations, periodic restocking is required.

Small ponds used for kids' fishing clinics or those maintained for "the grandchildren" and other sunfish enthusiasts, may be good candidates for hybrid sunfish. Smaller ponds with good fish habitat, yet without other fish species (or only catfish), probably offer the best potential for hybrid sunfish. In these ponds, hybrid growth may be maximized, and the fish population managed through simple changes in stocking and harvest.

Redear Sunfish



The **redeer sunfish** eats food similar to that of the bluegill, such as insect larvae, snails and cladocerans. They will feed on minute plant and animal life when the fish are small, but as they grow larger they will eat various insects and insect larvae (primarily midge fly larvae and blood worms), various crustaceans and snails.

When eating snails, the shell is completely crushed and most of it is expelled from the mouth. To crack hard shells, redears have specially modified teeth in their throat and is how the red-ear received the name "shell-cracker."

Black Crappie



Black crappie show a preference to water with a hard bottom and are common in large deep lakes. They have a high endurance to heat, cold, and foul water, which enable them to be easily transported and acclimated to new waters. Their diet consists mainly of smaller fish, aquatic insects larvae, worms, and crustaceans.

The number of eggs in a crappie nest is variable, but a nest can hold up to 20,000! Spawning takes place in late April and May when water temperature reaches about 56°F. The male fans out a depression with his caudal fin in 3-10 feet of water. It is practically impossible to distinguish the males from the females, even just before spawning.

Fathead Minnow



The **fathead minnow** is a popular feeder fish for pond-raised game fish. Fathead minnows are stocked to increase first-year growth of bass and bluegill or to supplement the food source for catfish. Once the bluegill population is established, fathead minnows often don't need to be restocked into bass-bluegill ponds, but additional stockings to increase the forage base are often made at the pond owners discretion.

Their preferred habitat consists of ponds and slower streams, although it will tolerate a wide range of conditions. The diet of the fathead minnow includes algae, bottom detritus, and zooplankton. They are very prolific and will spawn several times over the summer. Adult fathead minnows generally average 2-3 inches in length.

Triploid Grass Carp



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. If stocked correctly, they can eliminate many types of aquatic vegetation. Their ability to live long typically makes them significantly more cost effective than herbicides. It is the State of Illinois policy to not permit the stocking of Triploid Grass Carp in any natural waters. Illinois allows them to be stocked in private ponds, but a permit process must be followed, which we handle for you.