

STOCKING GUIDE FOR NEW OR RENOVATED PONDS

The following guide is divided into two major components based on whether a pond is less than or greater than one surface acre. If your pond is larger than one surface acre, selection of forage species for largemouth bass must be made. Base forage selection on the geographical location of your pond. (See Stocking Map). Remember that the following stocking recommendations were developed for new or renovated ponds (no fish present). Stock fish when surface water temperatures are below 80° Fahrenheit.

PONDS LESS THAN ONE SURFACE ACRE

Stock Channel and/or Blue Catfish; number depends on expectation of pounds to harvest annually, pond size and frequency of feeding.

- A. Catfish to be unfed or only occasionally fed. Stock 100 catfish and 1000 fathead minnows per surface acre. Catfish stocking rates can be doubled if an annual fertilization program is conducted.
- B. Catfish to be fed daily.
Stock up to 1000 catfish per surface acre.

PONDS GREATER THAN ONE SURFACE ACRE

A. **Stock channel and/or blue catfish:**

If your pond is muddy (visibility less than 12 inches throughout most of the year), stock with catfish as previously described for small ponds, or take appropriate steps to clear the pond and stock as described below.

****NOTE:** All of the following stocking rates can be doubled if an annual fertilization program is conducted.

B. **For clear ponds (visibility more than 12 inches) stock largemouth bass:**

20 advanced (6 to 8 inch) bass or 50 fingerling (1 to 3 inch) bass per surface acre.

C. **Stock forage for largemouth bass:**

Selection of forage for your pond is determined by the geographical location, rainfall, soil type and water quality (See Stocking Map). If you choose to stock fingerling (1 to 3 inch) forage species, introductions should be made in the late fall prior to bass stocking the next spring. Adult (3 inch +) bluegills or redear sunfish can also be stocked in the late fall, or with fingerling (1 to 3 inch) or advanced (6 to 8 inch) largemouth bass in the spring.

D. **If desired, stock catfish in addition to largemouth bass and forage:**

100 catfish per surface acre (catfish must be larger than bass stocked).

Forage Stocking for Largemouth Bass - Zone 1

Zone 1 is typically made up of the Pineywoods and the northern half of the Post Oak Savannah (see Stocking Map). This zone generally receives at least 40 inches of rainfall annually and typically has acid soils.

Stock 15 adult (3 inch +) bluegills and 15 adult (3 inch +) redear sunfish per surface acre,
or

Stock 250 fingerling (1 to 3 inch) bluegills and 250 fingerling (1 to 3 inch) redear sunfish per surface acre.

Optional: Threadfin shad may be stocked at 200 per surface acre.

Optional: Golden shiners may be stocked at 500 per surface acre.

Optional: Fathead minnows may be stocked at 500 per surface acre if fingerling (1 to 3 inch) bass are selected for stocking.

Forage Stocking for Largemouth Bass - Zone 2

Zone 2 is generally made up of those portions of the state that receive between 30 and 40 inches of rainfall annually and generally consists of the Backland Prairies, Upper Gulf Prairies, Cross Timbers and Prairies and the southern half of the Post Oak Savannah (See Stocking Map).

Stock 30 adult (3 inch +) bluegills per surface acre,
or
Stock 500 fingerling (1 to 3 inch) bluegills per surface acre.

Optional: Redear sunfish may be stocked at 15 adults (3 inch +) or 250 fingerlings (1 to 3 inch) per surface acre.

Optional: Threadfin shad may be stocked at 200 per surface acre.

Optional: Golden shiners may be stocked at 500 per surface acre.

Optional: Fathead minnows may be stocked at 500 per surface acre if fingerling (1 to 3 inch) bass are selected for stocking.

Forage Stocking for Largemouth Bass - Zone 3

Zone 3 consists of those areas of the state that receive less than 30 inches of rainfall annually. Included in this zone are the South Texas Plains, Edwards Plateau, Rolling Plains, High Plains, and the Trans-Pecos Mountains and Basins. (See Stocking Map).

Stock 30 adult (3 inch +) bluegills per surface acre,
or
Stock 500 fingerling (1 to 3 inch) bluegills per surface acre,
and
Stock 500 golden shiners per surface acre.

Optional: Redear sunfish may be stocked at 15 adult (3 inch +) or 250 fingerlings (1 to 3 inch) per surface acre.

Optional: Threadfin shad may be stocked at 200 per surface acre.

Optional: Fathead minnows may be stocked at the rate of 500 per surface acre if fingerling (1 to 3 inch) bass are selected for stocking.

