

Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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Board Meetings are held the third Wednesday
of each month at 8:30 AM
Board of Directors: Fred Croscut, Jay Gould,
Bruce Kidder, Allen Peterson, Lisa Vanstrom



SWCD Staff: David Spann, District Field Manager
Cassandra Pinkoski, Grant Specialist
Greg Kolenda, District Field Technician
Melissa Mee, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer
Robert Halbohm, Water Quality Technician
NRCS Jamestown Field Office:
Robert Nothdurft, Resource Conservationist
Anna Emke-Walker, Soil Conservationist

Stocking Triploid Grass Carp to Control Aquatic Vegetation in New York Waters

Grass Carp (*Ctenopharyngodon Idella*) were introduced into New York State in the 1980s when it became legal to stock a sterile hybrid to control submerged aquatic vegetation. Grass Carp tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions and prefer ponds or slack-water areas with dense vegetation. There have been no reports of natural reproduction of sterile fish.

Aquatic Plant Preferences of Triploid Grass Carp:

Triploid grass carp have distinct feeding preferences, preferring tender, succulent plant species over those that are tough and fibrous. Triploid grass carp do not prefer emergent species such as cattail or bulrush or floating leaved species such as water shield or water lily. Selectivity and consumption rate vary widely according to a vast array of factors including water temperature, dissolved oxygen and presence or absence of attached algae.

Triploid Grass Carp Stocking Rates: Triploid grass carp are extremely potent plant consumers. Triploid Grass Carp are capable of eradicating all plants from a pond for periods exceeding 10 years if a pond is overstocked with Triploid Grass Carp.

Besides the obvious impact such complete plant removal will have on vegetation-dependent fish and wildlife, total de-vegetation of a pond can also result in the development of severe algae blooms, foul smells, and an overall decline in water clarity. To minimize or prevent such adverse impacts Triploid Grass Carp should be introduced in incremental amounts to try to achieve the targeted goal of 20-30% coverage of vegetation of the pond's surface area, as it is impossible to precisely predict the exact number of fish. An incremental approach will involve waiting a two-year waiting period

after each stocking to see the results to achieve maximal control. Continue to add small increments of additional Grass Carp at two-year intervals until total plant populations are reduced to the 20-30% threshold. Patience is key, as aquatic vegetation control with Triploid Grass Carp is a slow process. However, once the appropriate number of Triploid Grass Carp is found to maintain optimum control of a pond is achieved, control will last a number of years. If more rapid control is desired, other plant control methods such as mechanical harvesting or advised chemical applications can be integrated with Triploid Grass Carp use.

Recommended Initial Triploid Grass Carp Stocking

Rates: Low Plant Density = 5 Fish Per Acre; Medium Plant Density = 10 Fish Per Acre; High Plant Density = 15 Fish Per Acre

It is ideal if Triploid Grass Carp can be added to the pond in the fall when the water is cool, however, results will likely not be seen until the following year.

Be advised that the high-water temperature combined with a low dissolved oxygen typically found in weedy ponds in the late summer can result in a substantial loss of grass carp. Visit the DEC's website to learn how to acquire a Grass Carp Permit for your pond at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/25024.html>



Please be advised that Grass Carp Permits are required for all Triploid Grass Carp purchases from Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District in accordance with New York State law. Please email chaut-co@soilwater.org to be added to our spring and fall fish sale order form mailing list.

Information pertaining to Triploid Grass Carp is courtesy of DEC: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7973.html>

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