

JUST A FEW BASICS ON RECREATIONAL POND MANAGEMENT

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RECREATIONAL POND MANAGEMENT



BASICS

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

LIMING AND FERTILIZATION

THE FOOD CHAIN OR WEB IN A POND

STARTS WITH THE ALGAE

WEED CONTROL

FISHING

LIMING PONDS

DESIRED TOTAL ALKALINITY IS 40 MG PER LITER

LIME NEUTRALIZES ACIDITY IN POND MUDS ALLOWING NUTRIENTS TO REMAIN LONGER IN THE WATER COLUMN WHERE THEY CAN PROVIDE "FUEL" TO THE FOOD CHAIN OR WEB

MAY TAKE 4-8 TONS PER SURFACE ACRE TO GET TO THIS LEVEL

YOU CAN'T OVERLIME A POND

A LIMING COMPANY MAY PURCHASE LIME IN 24 TON DUMP TRUCK QUANTITIES TO SAVE MONEY

A DOUBLE DOSE NOW MAY SAVE YOU FROM DOING IT AGAIN IN 3-4 YEARS

CAUTION: RIGGING UP AND OPERATING YOUR OWN LIME "BARGE" MAY END UP BEING THE YOU TUBE HIT OF THE YEAR. JUST SAYING THIS IS PROBABLY BEST LEFT TO THE PROFESSIONALS!

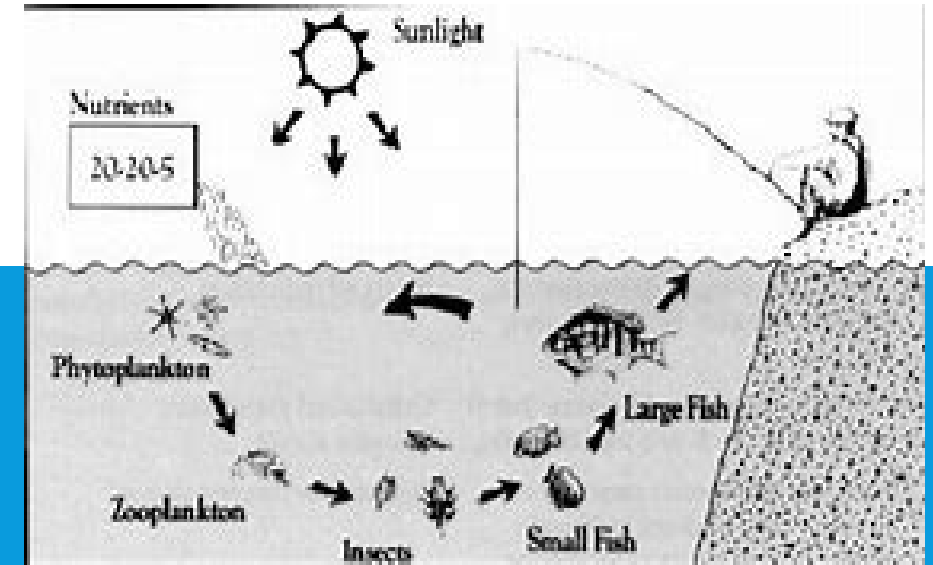


FOOD CHAIN

THE FIRST LINK: IT ALL STARTS WITH THE ALGAE/PHYTOPLANKTON

TAKES TEN POUNDS OF FORAGE FISH TO PRODUCE A ONE POUND BASS

AND IT TAKES A LOT OF MICROSCOPIC GROCERIES TO GET HIM STARTED OFF RIGHT (HUNDREDS OF POUNDS!)



POND WEEDS

DON'T ADD FERTILIZER UNTIL THE WEEDS ARE CONTROLLED

FOR HELP ON POND WEED PROBLEMS CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION AGENT. THEY CAN PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH A SPECIALIST.

GRASS CARP WILL EAT MOST **UNDERWATER** WEEDS

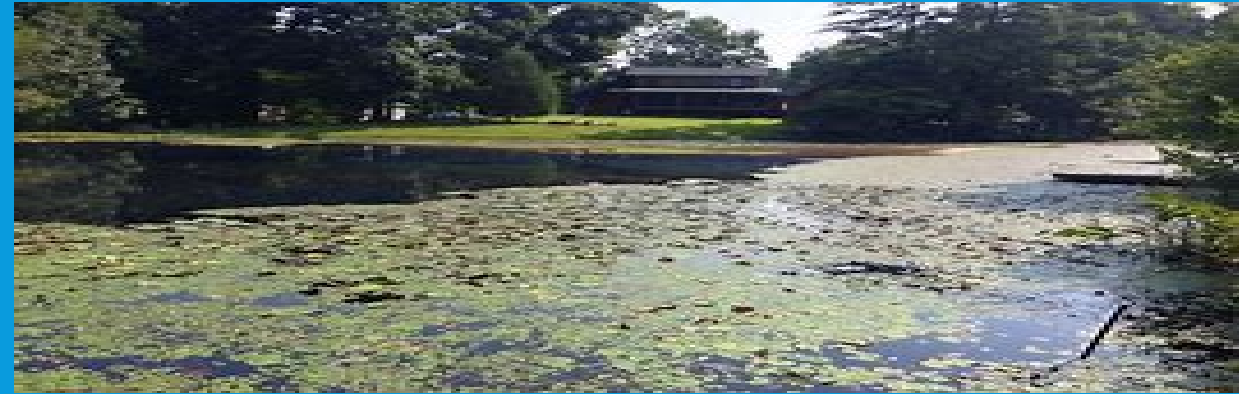
THEY WILL NOT REPRODUCE IN A POND

THEY WILL WORK FOR FOOD FOR ABOUT 3-5 YEARS

WHEN THEY GET BIG, REMOVE AND RESTOCK

ON THE LEFT IS A GOOD SIZE TO STOCK IN PONDS WITH BIG BASS

ON THE RIGHT ARE GRILLED GRASS CARP STEAKS



CHECKING POND BALANCE

NORMALLY DONE STARTING IN JUNE TO GIVE BASS
TIME TO SPAWN AND LET FRY GROW TO 1-2"

BIOLOGISTS WILL ASSESS NUMBERS AND SIZES OF
FISH AND DETERMINE POND "BALANCE" AND
MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT OFFICE WITH THE
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



LINKS



<http://sfaas.auburn.edu/affc/AFOA>

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/fisheries/pond-construction-and-watershed-management-in-recreational-fish-ponds/>

<https://www.outdooralabama.com/>