

# Be A Responsible Grass Carp Owner



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## What should I know about grass carp?

Grass carp, also called white amur, are stocked in ponds to control aquatic vegetation without the use of herbicides. They can grow to lengths of five feet and weigh more than 80 pounds. Grass carp are native to eastern Asia and are a species of Asian carp, which also includes the black, bighead and silver carps. Grass carp are the only one of those species allowed to be sold in Ohio, and they must be certified as sterile (triploid) so they cannot reproduce.

## What harm can grass carp cause outside of a pond?

The very reason that you want grass carp in your pond makes them harmful to wild habitats: They remove large amounts of aquatic vegetation which our native fish, waterfowl and other creatures need to survive. Both fertile and sterile grass carp have been found in Lake Erie. The fertile grass carp probably did not come from ponds, but the sterile fish may have escaped from stocked waters. Even though sterile grass carp cannot reproduce, they still damage the habitat and native food web in Lake Erie and other natural waterbodies by eating aquatic vegetation.

## How can I be a responsible grass carp owner?

- Purchase from a reputable fish dealer. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife maintains a list of licensed fish dealers in the state, and they can be reached at 1-800-WILDLIFE or [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov). County Soil and Water Conservation Districts often host fish sales sourced from an approved vendor.
- Stock only in ponds and waterbodies that cannot flood into natural waterways, and stock in recommended densities.
- Never stock in natural waterbodies or ponds that can flood into natural waterbodies.
- Never release unwanted grass carp into natural waterbodies. In Ohio, it is unlawful to transport and introduce any aquatic species from one body of water to another.
- Give unwanted grass carp to a friend with an isolated pond or dispose of the fish humanely. Contact a veterinarian or call Ohio Sea Grant at 419-607-4046.

# Never Let Your Grass Carp Go!

