

Managing Michigan Ponds for Sport Fishing

Table of Contents

Chapter	Page
1. INTRODUCTION	1
The Resource	1
What Is Successful Management?	1
Caution! Are You Sure You Want a Pond?	2
Natural Ponds and Artificial Ponds	2
2. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS	3
Goals	3
Investigation and Planning	4
Management Overview	4
Don't Plan on Financial Profit	4
Meeting State Environmental Regulations	5
3. BUILDING FISH PONDS	7
Pond Depth	7
Water Supply	8
Designing for Control of Aquatic Plants	9
Surface Area	10
Landscaping and Erosion Control in the Pond's Surroundings	10
Excavated or Dug Ponds	10
Impoundments	11
4. PONDS AS PLACES FOR FISH TO LIVE	13
Basic Pond Characteristics for Natural Production of Fish	13
The Pond Ecosystem	13
Consequences of Overenrichment	16
Facts About Water and Chemicals Dissolved in It	18
Pond Breathing, Circulation and Stratification	19
Investigating Pond Suitability for Fish	20
5. KINDS OF FISH TO USE IN PONDS	23
Coldwater Fishes	23
Rainbow Trout	24
Brook Trout	24
Brown Trout	24
Hybrid Trout	24
Warmwater Fishes	24
Largemouth Bass	24
Smallmouth Bass	25
Bluegill	25
Hybrid Sunfish	26
Channel Catfish	26
Forage Fishes	26
Fishes Not Recommended for Pond Management	27
6. HOW AND WHERE TO GET FISH FOR STOCKING	29
7. MANAGING WARMWATER PONDS FOR FISHING	31
Determining If a Pond Is Suitable for Warmwater Fish	31
Stocking	31
Angling Harvest	32