

How and Where To Get Fish For Stocking

There are two ways to obtain fish for your warmwater pond—purchase them from a licensed game fish breeder (live fish dealer), or catch them and plant them yourself. Obtaining them from a licensed game fish breeder is easiest, most economical and safest in the long run because you can get them at just about any time and in the number needed. A list of Michigan licensed game fish breeders is available at no cost from DNR District offices (Appendix), or any of the county SCS field offices.

If you choose to catch your own fish to stock your pond, be sure they are free of unwanted parasites and in good condition. The stress from catching the

fish, holding them in a cooler or on a stringer, and transporting them to your pond could make the fish unsuitable for stocking. You might obtain them from someone else's pond or from public waters. In the latter case, you must adhere to all state fishing laws. This means you must have a fishing license and abide by the regulations governing season, bag limits and size limits. For these and other regulations, especially those governing the use of seines and nets, consult the "Michigan Fishing Guide," the DNR's annual statement of regulations, available where licenses are sold.

