

## State Regulations On Pond Building And Management In Michigan

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) actively regulates pond construction and management. The laws exist to protect our state's environmental resources.

### Pond Construction

Any pond built in violation of local, state, or federal law or without the appropriate permits may be considered illegal. Civil action may be initiated and the court can order the removal of the pond and renovation to the pre-existing habitat at the owner's expense. A state permit is needed for constructing a pond if *any* of the following are true:

- It will be formed by damming any running water.
- It will be connected to any running or standing body of water including wetlands.
- It will be within 500 feet of any other water body.

Contact the nearest DNR office or Soil Conservation office early in the pond planning to find out what restrictions may apply to your situation and to determine what local, state, or federal permits, if any, will be needed.

### Using Chemicals

Any use of chemicals to kill or control algae, weeds, fish, or aquatic pests (for example, swimmer's itch) may require a permit or require certification of the applicator. Permits are required for chemical application to a pond if *any* of the following are true:

- It is not entirely private or under single-party ownership.
- It has any type of outlet.
- It is within 500 feet of any other water body.
- It is 10 surface acres or greater.

Contact the Inland Lakes Management Unit, Land and Water Management Division of the DNR (P.O. Box 30028, Mason Building, Lansing, MI 48909, 517-373-8000) for permit applications to control algae, weeds, or aquatic pests. Contact the Fish Division of the DNR for permits to control unwanted fish populations.

Lists of certified aquatic pesticide applicators can be obtained from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division (P.O. Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909, 517-373-1087).

### Fish Stocking

An MDNR permit is required for fish stocking in public waters, in private waters having fish migration from public waters, and in private waters connected by any water route with bodies of water in other ownership. "Private" means that the pond is in single-party ownership. No stocking permits are needed in ponds which are completely landlocked and under single-party ownership.

A state license is also required for anyone who wishes to sell fish for stocking. This is called a "fish breeder's license." A seller of fish must have this license whether or not he or she is the actual breeder of the fish or just a dealer for fish that someone else has bred.

