



# THE CONSERVATION CONNECTION

News from MCSWCD



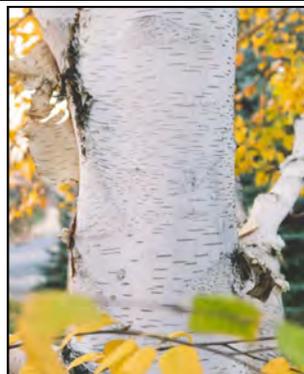
Protecting Today, Providing Tomorrow

## Don't Forget Your Trees!

What better way to celebrate Earth Day than picking up your tree and shrub seedlings! If you pre-ordered seedlings you must pick them up between 9am and 5pm on April 21<sup>st</sup> or April 22<sup>nd</sup>. By ordering seedlings you are doing your part in conservation by planting trees or shrubs for windbreaks and screens, wildlife food and shelter, increased land aesthetics, erosion control, climate resilience, and more! We surpassed last year's pre-order record and can't wait for everyone to get their trees!

If you weren't able to get an order in before the deadline, don't fret - we will be holding our first-come, first-serve overstock sale Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am until 11am (or earlier if species sell out). Please note that we will have limited stock and not all species in our catalog may be available. For more details on the Conservation Tree & Shrub program or to make sure you don't miss out on pre-orders by signing up for our mailing list visit our website: <https://monroecountyswcd.org/page-8.html>.

A change to this year's distribution is that we will no longer be offering hard copy species and item fact sheets. All fact sheets will now be found on the District's Google Drive account and you can access them here: [Species Information Folder](#).



### IMPORTANT TREE & SHRUB PROGRAM DATES & DEADLINES

Tree & Shrub Distribution	4/21/2022 & 4/22/2022 (9 am - 5 pm)
Overstock Sale	4/23/2022 (9 am - 11 am)
Tree Forfeiture Deadline	4/29/2022

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### 2022 District Dates & Deadlines

- April 6**  
WNYSWMTS Class #2
  - April 21-22**  
Tree & Shrub Distribution
  - April 23**  
Tree & Shrub Overstock Sale
  - April 27**  
WNYSWMTS Class #3
  - May 6**  
Fish Program Distribution
  - May 12**  
Envirothon
  - May 18**  
WNYSWMTS Class #4
  - June 8**  
WNYSWMTS Class #5
- Our office will be closed May 30<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day and June 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth.**

## Our Spring Fish Stocking Program is Open Now!

Distribution will be on **May 6, 2022 at 12:00 PM**

The District holds two annual fish stocking programs: one in spring and one in fall. For years this program has provided pond landowners with the opportunity to stock or restock their pond at the perfect time of year, ensuring less stress for the fish as they enter their new home. Less stress overall leads to higher survivability of your fish. Additionally, if you're looking to increase the overall environment and health of your pond, we will have items that can do just that!

Orders with payment must be received by **May 2, 2022**.

**\*The fillable order form is attached at the end of this newsletter\***

**The order form, full catalog of species, online ordering store, and various permits including the one required to purchase and stock Triploid Grass Crap, can also be found on our website at:**

**<https://www.monroecountyswcd.org/page-9.html>**



### Fishing and Conservation Go Together

Western New York is very fortunate to have so many incredible and abundant water resources right in our backyards from Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Irondequoit Bay, and the Finger Lakes to the hundreds of inland waterways in-between. It is important to remember that these fresh water resources are finite and under constant pressure from our daily activities. It is even more important that individually we do our part, no matter how small, to help protect and conserve our local and regional waterbodies. District staff spend a lot of time visiting and assessing our local waterways and see trash including discarded fishing tackle littering our creeks and streams. Think about how you can reduce your impact and always clean up after yourself! Practice “Leave no Trace” or “Carry-in, Carry-out” when outdoors or remove and dispose of visible trash when visiting your local park or stream when possible. Consider joining a locally sponsored stream clean-up event (many take place around Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>)). Monroe County’s *Pick Up the Parks* event takes place at various Parks across Monroe County on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am-12:00pm. For more information visit: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/parks-pickuptheparks>.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has announced a series of changes to freshwater fishing regulations for 2022 which go into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information on these regulations visit their website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/124258.html>.

The following page shows tips borrowed from the Orvis.com webpage and written by fly fishing legend Bill Cairns focusing not only on fishing etiquette, but also relating to basic concepts of respect and appreciation and stewardship. Fish on!

# Classic Pro Tips: What Makes Good Stream Etiquette?

by Bill Cairns

It used to be that most new fishermen were gradually introduced to the sport of fly fishing by a family member or friend who had a fishing background, and various rules of behavior would be acquired over time and adhered to as a matter of course. Nowadays, we welcome many adult newcomers to the sport with no tradition to rely on for guidance so streamside misunderstanding can easily arise.

The rules of streamside behavior are few and easily observed. Mostly they revolve around common sense, courtesy, and consideration of others sharing the stream.

- A section of water belongs to the first fisherman fishing it. It is inconsiderate to crowd him and just how close an approach is permissible is an obvious variable.
- A slow-moving or stationary fisherman has every right to remain just where he is. If you are moving, leave the water and walk around him, being certain not to disturb his fishing or the water he might be working. In a similar vein, a fisherman may be resting a pool or planning his next move. It is still his water, and you should not jump in without his permission.
- A fisherman working in an upstream direction has the right of way over someone coming downstream. Wading up stream against the current forces you to move slowly, cover less water, and you are approaching the fish from behind. The fisherman working in a downstream direction covers more water, more quickly, and has the potential to disturb more water. For instance, careless wading could send silt or debris washing downstream to alarm fish that someone else is working over.
- Many streams flow through private property. Recognize that access is a privilege, not a right. Respect private property. If unsure about access, ask the landowner politely. On farm properties: don't trample crops, disturb livestock, or leave gates open.
- Leave no litter at streamside. In fact, get in the habit of picking up discarded monofilament, cans and other trash, carrying them out to be discarded properly.
- Recognize that skilled anglers and/or heavy fishing pressure with excessively liberal limits can greatly reduce the available fish populations in any stream section unless voluntary restraint is practiced. A legal limit is not a quota. Let your fishing motto be: "Limit your kill; don't kill your limit." Orvis encourages the catch-and-release philosophy of angling, allowing fish to mature, reproduce, and live to challenge other anglers in the future.
- Multiple recreational use of streams is common. We may share the resource with tubes and canoes. It is the responsibility of the canoer to recognize that the angler has established a position before the canoe floated into view. The canoer should try to pass behind the angler. If space doesn't permit this, the canoer should float by quietly and with minimum disturbance.

In summary, behave on stream towards other anglers as you would like them to behave towards you and welcome to the world of fly fishing.

*"Bill Cairns is a legend in fly fishing. He was a fly fishing teacher, ambassador, historian, rod builder, fly tier, and one of the best casters ever. He founded the first fly fishing school in 1966 at the Orvis Company. The fly fishing world lost a true gentleman in 2013 when Bill was 81 years old".*

## Healthy Lawn, Healthy You

Keeping a healthy lawn provides numerous environmental benefits and is good for your health. Healthy lawns begin with using the right fertilizer and keeping the lawn pesticide-free. The following tips adapted from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie and Monroe County will leave your lawn healthier and safer than ever:

1. While the traditional “golf course look” of a lawn is rather appealing, having a mixture of grass species is much more beneficial and does not require the use of synthetic chemicals. You should read the entire label before purchasing fertilizer to ensure no products included are hazardous to humans, pets, or wildlife. Remember, chemical free is always better.
2. The right amount of topsoil in your lawn goes a long way and you can determine if you have enough by simply digging. At least 6 inches of topsoil is considered healthy, any less should have a half inch of compost added annually. Additionally, performing a soil test is a good way to determine soil health, and kits are available at our office.
3. Sick of all the weeds in your lawn? There are simple ways to rid your lawn of them, depending on the species. Dandelions are indicative of high pH soils, so adding some lime can help. Crabgrass like compacted soils, so aerate the soil. Don’t count all those weeds out just yet, though. Not all species should be removed at first sight. Certain species like clover readily make nitrogen available in the soil.
4. Speaking of weeds, adding fast-growing fertilizer when weeds are actively growing will only make them grow and not your grass. Using slow-release fertilizer during inactive weed growth periods will ensure your grass grows better. Applying fertilizer in the fall after top growth has ceased will promote deep root growth and stronger plants.
5. Plant a variety of grasses. The variety will grow better with the variety of conditions all lawns see and have.
6. Don’t cut your grass too short. Keeping your mower at 3” is considered a good length since longer grass outcompetes weeds, is more drought tolerant, and more pest/disease resistant. Additionally, leaving grass clippings on your lawn will help naturally fertilize it.
7. If you water your lawn, only water in the morning and not too often. No more than one inch of water a week is recommended. This will encourage deeper root growth, while discouraging excessive weed growth.
8. Soil becomes compacted over time due to buildup of living and dead roots. Aerating your soil will allow oxygen, water, and nutrients to better flow through to the grass roots.
9. Find ways other than pesticides to get rid of grubs (which are far less common in chemical-free lawns). Nematodes are naturally occurring microscopic worms that can be mixed in water and applied to lawns to treat grub outbreaks.
10. If using a lawn-care service, ask for pesticide-free applications.



## Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program

For over a decade, the District has participated in the annual Agricultural Plastics Recycling Program. This year we are excited to welcome a new recycling pick-up company we will be working with: Ag Plastic Solutions LLC! They have been in the business since 2014 and are always looking to help farmers with the proper methods of farm plastics storage and disposal. Pick-up dates for Monroe County are yet to be determined but any interested farmers are required to pre-register for pick-up and can reach out to our office anytime to do so. Once a pick-up date is announced, participating farms will be notified.



The following materials are accepted by Ag Plastic Solutions LLC: bale wrap, plastic twine, silage bags/bunker covers (black and white only), greenhouse covers, drip tape, flats, trays, pots, stretch film (clear only), cardboard, plastic pallets, dairy chemicals and detergents, hay preservative buckets/barrels, and some poly lumber scraps. At this time they do not accept pesticides, mulch film, oil drums/buckets, and oxygen barrier films. All containers MUST be clean, empty, pressure rinsed or triple rinsed, and dry. All materials must be separated from each other and reasonably clean and dry.

For full details on what is and isn't accepted please visit their website:

<http://www.agplasticsolutions.com/>

Any interested farmers should pre-register by calling (585-753-7380) or emailing ([mcsxcd@monroecounty.gov](mailto:mcsxcd@monroecounty.gov)) the District.

## New Funding for Cover Cropping Available

Cover cropping has turned into a popular practice on farms, as growers see the potential and benefit of improving overall soil health, fixing nitrogen, suppressing weeds and controlling soil erosion. This best management practice is also used to increase populations of bees for pollination purposes. The addition of a cover crop rotation makes the soil more productive, and has a beneficial effect on water quantity and quality.

The District has funding available to implement cover crops for farms participating in the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program that has been recommended on their farm through the AEM planning process. This funding is non-competitive and available to all farms within Monroe County that are current participants or would like to join the AEM program. If interested, please contact the District by April 15<sup>th</sup>.



## Highlighting Our Wildlife

### Bats

Did you know there are 9 species of bats that call New York state their home at least some parts of the year? Our state is home to six cave bats and three tree bats. Often misunderstood and feared by residents, bats get a bad rap. Highly beneficial to the environment, though, bats are an important member of our ecosystem and in previous years have had populations decimated by White Nose Syndrome (WNS). Bats are able to consume up to 50% of their body weight in insects in a single night, and it's probably a safe bet to say that even nature-lovers wouldn't mind having less mosquitos around. Bats are responsible for controlling insect populations and balancing the ecosystems they are a part of. Following declining insect numbers in the fall, bats will go into hibernation and emerge come spring when insect populations increase as a result of warmer temperatures.



Bats typically begin to emerge from hibernation towards mid-late March and, as such, you may be finding or hearing bats emerging from your attic, walls, etc. Sadly, many people's responses to bats in their homes may be to harm them or to improperly remove them. If you know or suspect there are bats in your home use this link to find the most local nuisance wildlife operator to contact:

[https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/sls\\_searches/index.cfm?p=live\\_nwco](https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/xtapps/sls_searches/index.cfm?p=live_nwco).

If you would like to do your part in bat conservation and increasing bat numbers to what they used to be before WNS, installing a bat house is a simple and easy way to provide safe roosting for bats. For proper installation guidelines and best areas to install visit our website: <https://monroecountyswcd.org/page-22.html> or reach out to your local DEC or CCE office. Additionally, bat houses are available at our office year-round.

### Bald Eagle



Once on the verge of extinction just 40 years ago, Bald Eagles have made a tremendous comeback and can now be found virtually everywhere in North America. Living in Monroe County means we are fortunate enough to have Lake Ontario to our North, along with several other important waterways like Irondequoit Bay, Braddock Bay, the Genesee River, and several larger creeks holding a steady supply of fish to attract eagles. Traveling to any of these areas, you are likely to see a Bald Eagle, and depending on the time of year, multiple eagles. Pairs with nests have been observed on Irondequoit Bay and along Oatka Creek. In winter, Bald Eagles of all ages will congregate together wherever open water remains, usually leading to a large influx of individuals. If you ever come across

a Bald Eagle while hiking, fishing, boating, etc. it is important to remember to keep your distance and view from a distance, especially if you are viewing an active nest during the breeding season. It is recommended to remain at least 600 feet away from an active nest whether it consists of eggs or hatched young.



Did you know: Bald Eagles don't have fully white heads and tails until they reach 5 years old!

## Tick Awareness & Prevention

Not all wildlife encountered while outdoors causes positive reactions like the previous page's highlights, one such example being ticks. If you are anything like our Conservation Program Specialist and you have found that ticks have an affinity for you no matter how long you're outside, then the following guidelines can ensure you take the best steps towards tick awareness and prevention, in turn preventing the chance of getting Lyme disease.

New York is currently home to three different species of ticks and the following measures adapted from the CDC can help prevent tick bites on you and your pets, along with preventing ticks in your yard:

- **Know where to expect ticks** - Grassy, brushy, or wooded areas are the most common places you will encounter ticks. Activities such as camping, dog walking, gardening, and hunting are all common ways people find ticks on themselves or their pets.
- **Use insect repellants** - The most common way to prevent tick exposure is by wearing insect repellent. Repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, OLE, PMD, or 2-undecanone offer the best protection against ticks.
- **Treat your hiking gear** - Applying 0.5% permethrin to your clothing, boots, and other gear will prevent ticks and the permethrin will last through several washes.
- **Avoid contact** - Stay in the middle of trails, avoid high grass areas, and avoid areas with lots of leaf litter.
- **Check yourself and your pets before coming indoors** - Once home check all clothing and gear for any ticks and promptly remove any found. The following areas should be closely examined when returning home: under your arms, in and around your ears, inside your belly button, back of your knees, between your legs, in your hair, and around your waist. In addition to these areas on your pets you should also check around their tail, under their collar, and between their toes. Outdoor pets should be checked daily for ticks and speaking to your vet about tick prevention medicines is always recommended.
- **Dry clothes after returning home** - Since ticks are small and often hard to see, you may miss some on your clothing. Tumble drying your clothes on high heat for 10 minutes will kill any ticks still remaining after your initial check.
- **Shower and wash** - Showering soon after being outdoors will help reduce the risk of Lyme disease, along with washing off any unattached ticks. Washing your pets will help reduce their risk, as well.
- **Create a tick-safe zone in your yard** - The following steps will create a tick-safe zone: remove leaf litter, clear tall grass and brush around the house, mow frequently, neatly stack wood in a dry area, create a barrier of wood chips or stones between lawns and wooded areas to reduce tick migration, keep play areas and equipment away from yard edges, and don't leave any old furniture in the yard giving ticks places to hide.



## District to Hold Live Envirothon Event Again After Two Year Absence

After the District was able to hold a successful live, outdoor event for our Conservation Field Days education event last fall, we are looking forward to doing the same with our Envirothon education event this spring on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The Envirothon brings together high school students from schools all over Monroe County to compete against each other in five different environmental topics, with the winner going on to compete in a state-wide competition for a chance to compete in a nation-wide competition. The five topics are: aquatics, current issue, forestry, soils, and wildlife. The current issue topic changes each year and this year's current event is Waste to Resources. Staff from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Seneca Park Zoo, and Monroe County Department of Environmental Services are all participating to educate and test the students' knowledge.

We want to thank all of our instructors for their upcoming participation and hope they are excited as we are to welcome these teams back in person! Each team works together to complete an exam that is both conceptual and hands-on for each topic utilizing their preparation and surroundings. In addition, each team will give an oral presentation on the current issue. This year we are welcoming back three schools who have competed in previous years and we hope they are as excited as we are to return to beautiful Ellison Park to compete!

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

With the return of a live event comes the return of recruiting volunteers. We'll need volunteers for event set-up and take-down, picture taking, and student team management. If you are interested in volunteering to help out at the competition in May, please reach out to our office via email at [jacobkearney@monroecounty.gov](mailto:jacobkearney@monroecounty.gov) or phone at 585-753-7674.



All 5 teams from Brockport High School from the 2019 competition.

## Saying Goodbye to Jackie Smith

This month we are saying goodbye to Legislative Representative Jackie Smith, who served on our Board of Directors. In her short time Jackie's passion for what we do here did not go unnoticed and we want to thank her for her service and wish her all the best!

Since 2019, Jackie has represented the 2<sup>nd</sup> legislative district in Monroe County that includes the Town of Clarkson, Hamlin, and Sweden and will continue to serve her district as a dedicated legislator.

## Welcome Susan Hughes-Smith

The District wants to welcome Legislator Susan Hughes-Smith to our Board of Directors. Representing the Town of Brighton, Susan currently resides there in a multi-generational home including her mother, husband, and five children.

Susan taught environmental studies and environmental policy for over twenty years at local colleges and co-founded a Climate Advocacy organization. She is also a founding member and part owner of a small business that serves as the local manager for 100% renewable energy community choice aggregation programs. Welcome to the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District Susan.



## District Staff Participate in Water Quality Symposium

For two weeks of March, District staff participated in various classes and trainings presented by the New York State Conservation Districts Employees' Association and the New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee. Each year staff from Districts all across the state are given the chance to take many classes to learn or brush up on important topics from stream stabilization to soil health to agricultural environmental management to simply making the best of your work day! After last year and this year's courses being over ZOOM we are excited to return to in-person courses and see familiar faces across the state from other districts!



**Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District**

145 Paul Road, Building 5  
Rochester, NY 14624  
Phone: 585-753-7380  
M-F 8am-4pm

[mcswcd@monroecounty.gov](mailto:mcswcd@monroecounty.gov)

[www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org)

**WNY Stormwater Management Training Series**

Join us for our Western New York Stormwater Management Training being offered this spring to provide education and training for stormwater professionals involved in preparing and implementing Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans on development projects.

All courses are 4 hours and taught through ZOOM .

The schedule below shows the remaining courses being offered and more details on the program and each course, including registration and cost can be found on our website:

<https://monroecountyswcd.org/page-48.html>.

**\*\*This series of trainings IS NOT part of the NYS DEC 4-Hr Erosion and Sediment Control Training\*\***

**WNY Stormwater Management Training Series Schedule**

SEQRA & the Development Process	4/6/2022
Stormwater Filtration & Infiltration Practices	4/27/2022
Updates for the MS4 Permit	5/18/2022
SWPPP Preparation & Review	6/8/2022

**Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram by visiting the links or using the QR codes below!**

<http://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountySWCD>

[https://www.instagram.com/moeroecoswcd\\_ny/](https://www.instagram.com/moeroecoswcd_ny/)



**Board of Directors:**

Rollin Pickering  
*Chairman/NY Grange Rep.*

Chuck Colby  
*Treasurer/Member at Large*

Steve Brew  
*Legislative Rep.*

Susan Hughes-Smith  
*Legislative Rep.*

Marc Krieger  
*Farm Bureau Rep.*

Maureen Leupold  
*Asst. Treasurer/Member at Large*

**District Staff:**

Kelly Emerick  
(CPESC, CPSWQ, CPMMS)  
*Executive Director*

James Sroka  
*Soil & Water Resource Technician*

Kristin White  
*Account Clerk*

Jacob Kearney  
*Conservation Program Specialist*



Oatka Creek Park in spring



This newsletter is published quarterly by the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District and is available at no cost to interested landowners, land users, and to the general public. If you would like to receive our newsletter, call us with your email address or view it online at [www.monroecountyswcd.org](http://www.monroecountyswcd.org). Programs and services offered through the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District are made possible through the financial support of the County of Monroe, State of New York, specialized grant opportunities, and fundraising programs. All SWCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to age, color, national origin, political beliefs, religion, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. Our Board of Director meetings are open to the public; please call for information.



# MONROE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

145 Paul Road, Building #5, Rochester, NY 14624 Phone: (585)753-7380

<http://www.monroecountyswcd.org>

## 2022 SPRING FISH STOCKING PROGRAM

**SCHEDULED DISTRIBUTION is FRIDAY MAY 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.**

**All orders must be received with payment by Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Distribution will be at the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation Office (address above). We have no holding facilities.

**PLEASE ARRIVE PROMPTLY AT 12PM. NO REFUNDS FOR ORDERS NOT PICKED UP.**

### PLEASE READ:

- 1) You will need to bring **20 gallons of pond or lake water** for every 6 Grass Carp, 500 minnows, 75 Perch, 50 Bass (20 larger bass), 50 Black Crappie. **Do NOT use tap water!**
- 2) Recommended travel time should not exceed 30-45 minutes.  
Aquarium aerators can be used to decrease stressors to fish during transport.
- 3) **Please bring a cover for the container(s) of water in order to reduce risk of fish loss or water loss.**  
A garbage bag with a tie is acceptable if you do not have a container with an appropriate lid.
- 4) Additional information to consider before ordering specific species or items can be found on the next page.  
You NEED a Triploid Grass Carp permit to buy carp. See next page how to obtain a permit.
- 5) Online ordering is available at: <https://monroe-county-soil-and-water-conservation-district.square.site/fish-stocking-program> Credit card payments are also accepted over the phone at (585)753-7380.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR GRASS CARP PERMIT (3 copies) WITH YOUR ORDER**

**OR a copy can be sent via email to [mcswcd@monroecounty.gov](mailto:mcswcd@monroecounty.gov)**

*(retain a photocopy for your records).* This will enable us to expedite the distribution of your order.

You will receive a signed copy with your grass carp the day of distribution.

*The Soil & Water Conservation District is **not** responsible for fish after they leave the pick-up area.*

----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- **CUT HERE** ----- ✂ --- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

Please complete form, detach and return with payment to the address at the top of the page.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fish Species	Length	Rate per Acre	Price		Quantity Ordered	Price
			Each	Per/25		
Triploid Grass Carp**	10-14"	Set by DEC	\$30			\$
Fathead Minnows	2-3"	2000	\$16 per ½ lb. <small>(½ lb. = approximately 75 minnows)</small>			\$
Yellow Perch	3-5"	50	\$7	\$85		\$
Largemouth Bass	3-5"	50	\$7	\$85		\$
Bluegill	3-5"	50	\$7	\$85		\$
Black Crappie	3-5"	12	\$7	\$85		\$
Fish Food 5 lb. bag	--		\$12			\$
Fish Food 10 lb. bag	--		\$23			\$
Fish Food 44 lb. bag	--		\$67			\$
					Total:	\$

Credit card refunds will be subject to a 5% administrative fee deducted from the total amount of purchase.

*(Sales Tax is already included)*

\*\*Please consider the following additional information below before ordering these species or items.

## **Additional Information:**

**\*\* You NEED a Triploid Grass Carp permit to buy carp.** If you do not have a permit, call the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS-DEC), Fisheries Office at (585) 226-5343 to obtain an application or download the form from the NYS-DEC at: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/grasscarppermitappl.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/grasscarppermitappl.pdf). The form is also available on our Fish Program webpage: <https://monroecountyswcd.org/page-9.html>

Triploid Grass Carp control aquatic vegetation by consuming various types of soft stemmed rooted plants. Grass Carp will NOT control algae. Customers have been known to successfully use barley straw to reduce algae growth. For more information visit our website.

- Unfortunately **Barley Straw** is **NOT** available through our 2022 Fish Stocking Program due to a lack of local supply. Barley Straw can be used as a more natural preventative practice to minimize the potential for algae growth in ponds. Note that if you use barley straw to help reduce algae growth, it is best to put the straw in the pond as early as possible in the spring before algae starts to grow. Contact our District if you need help determining how much barley straw you will need for your pond.
- Fish sizing and availability may vary depending on yearly weather conditions.
- You may obtain a free Farm Fish Pond License to stock fish by calling the NYS-DEC Fisheries Office at: (585) 226-5343. Permits are good for 5 years. This form is also available on the District website.
- Koi are no longer offered at our Fish Stocking Event. Koi are now listed as a regulated invasive species in New York State due to their harmful impacts on native populations in natural waterbodies. Please feel free to contact our office for suggestions on similar functional replacements for your pond.
- Additional information about fish needs and other items offered is available in our Fish Program Catalog: <https://monroecountyswcd.org/page-9.html>