

2026 POND STOCKING PROGRAM



Arrangements must be made to pick up your order on **Friday, May 1st, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.** Payment and orders must be received by Friday, April 17th, 2026. **NO REFUNDS** will be given if you do not pick up your fish, and Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is not responsible for fish after they are picked up.

Rainbow Trout 4-6", Brook Trout 4-6" Largemouth Bass 4-6", Channel Catfish 4-6", Black Crappie 3-5", Hybrid Bluegill/Sunfish 3-5", Sterile (Triploid) Grass Carp 10"+ and Fathead Minnows

Applications for FISH STOCKING, FARM FISH POND LICENSE and STOCKING STERILE GRASS CARP can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/57966.htm. Applications should be returned to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, not Cortland SWCD and can take over a month to process. These are required for stocking.

****Approved Carp permit must be provided to SWCD by APRIL 17th for order to be processed.****

PICK UP FISH ORDERS AT 9:30 A.M., Friday, May 1st AT THE NYS GRANGE HEADQUARTERS. THE HATCHERY WILL BAG AND BOX EACH INDIVIDUAL ORDER DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN WATER.

<u>POND STOCKING PRODUCT</u>	<u>PRICE (without tax)</u>
RAINBOW TROUT 4-6" (min. order is 10)	\$3.50 (each)
LARGEMOUTH BASS 4-6" (min. order is 10)	\$4.25 (each)
BROOK TROUT 4-6" (min. order is 10)	\$3.75 (each)
CHANNEL CATFISH 4-6" (min. order is 10)	\$2.75 (each)
BLACK CRAPPIE 3-5" (min. order is 10)	\$3.50 (each)
HYBRID BLUEGILL/SUNFISH 3-5" (min. order is 10)	\$2.50 (each)
FATHEAD MINNOWS per lb. (~200+ minnows/lb.)	\$35.00 (per lb.)
STERILE GRASS CARP 10"+ (each) <i>*Provide copy of permit*</i>	\$30.00 (each)
FISH FOOD (10 lb. bag)	\$20.00
FISH FOOD (44 lb. bag)	\$60.00
MACROZYME BENEFICIAL BACTERIA (treats 1/3 acre, see description)	\$65.00
POND COLORANT (treats 1/3 acre, see description)	\$20.00
BARLEY PELLETS (treats 1/3 acre, see description)	\$90.00

****Our 2026 [Pond Stocking Program](https://cortlandsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.myshopify.com/) is now available through an [online sales platform](https://cortlandsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.myshopify.com/) (<https://cortlandsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.myshopify.com/>)****

Cash or check sales **must be made in-person** at the SWCD office. If you encounter any issues or observe errors with our online store, please don't hesitate to inform us. Your feedback is valuable in ensuring a smooth checkout and addressing any potential concerns. We appreciate your help and support as we try to be more efficient.

Stocking Rates and Information

THERE ARE NO GUARANTEES ON FISH!!! We choose the spring seasons because they are cooler and less stressful on the fish. The fish farm provides a fish health certificate which certifies that their facility is inspected and fish are pathogen free as required by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation stocking permits.

Rainbow Trout: Rainbow trout eat a variety of foods such as minnows, food pellets, and insects. Trout do not reproduce well in ponds so may need to be restocked every 2-3 years. Rainbow trout will eat 3% of their body weight per day typically reaching 1-4 lbs. but can occasionally grow to 5+ lbs. **Trout require a minimum depth of 8-10 feet and oxygenated water; temperatures under 60 degrees with a suggested stocking rate of 75 trout per 1/4 acre.**



Brook Trout: Brook trout eat a variety of foods such as minnows, food pellets, and insects. Trout do not reproduce well in ponds so may need to be restocked every 2-3 years.



Trout require a minimum depth of 8-10 feet and oxygenated water; temperatures under 60 degrees with a suggested stocking rate of 75 trout per 1/4 acre.

Largemouth Bass: Largemouth bass eat a variety of foods such as minnows, food pellets, crayfish, and insects. Bass can tolerate both cold and warm water ponds typically reaching 1-4 lbs. but can occasionally grow to 5+ lbs. **Bass require a minimum depth of 7 to 8 feet with a suggested stocking rate of 25 bass and 150 minnows per 1/4 acre.**



Channel Catfish Feeding and Stocking Rates: Channel catfish have a diverse diet encompassing minnows, food pellets, crayfish, algae, and insects. Thriving in both cold and warm water ponds, they generally attain sizes ranging from 2-5 lbs., with occasional individuals reaching an impressive 20 lbs. Due to their limited reproductive success in ponds, restocking may be necessary. **Channel catfish are best suited to a minimum pond depth of 7 to 8 feet. For stocking, it is advisable to introduce 25-50 catfish and 100 minnows per 1/4 acre.**



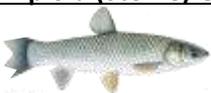
Black Crappie: Black crappies are a popular panfish and eat a variety of foods such as minnows, food pellets, crayfish, and insects. Crappie can tolerate both cold and warm water ponds, readily spawn in lakes or ponds in the spring, and typically reach 8" by the second year and average 1 lb. **Crappie require a minimum depth of 7 to 8 feet with a suggested stocking rate of 25 crappie and 150 minnows per 1/4 acre.**



Hybrid Bluegill: Hybrid bluegill re produced from the crossbreeding of a male bluegill with a female green sunfish, primarily yielding male offspring. This genetic combination reduces the risk of pond overpopulation compared to other bluegill varieties. Bluegills exhibit an omnivorous diet, consuming minnows, food pellets, and insects. They thrive in warm ponds but require careful management to prevent overpopulation and stunted growth. **A recommended stocking rate is 25 hybrid bluegill per 1/4 acre.**



Tripliod (Sterile) Grass Carp Stocking Rates: Stocking rates for your pond will be dependent on your DEC permit. A copy of the permit can be found at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/47520.html, or by calling your NYS DEC Regional Office. Permits need to be obtained prior to pickup.



****See front for sterile grass carp permit information**.**

Macro-Zyme Beneficial Bacteria: This non-toxic bacteria/enzyme product helps to decompose organic matter on the pond bottom reducing nutrients available for algae growth. One muck block treats 1/3 acre and should be applied when water temperature reaches 55 degrees and can be added monthly 3x during warmer months. [Macro Zyme Info](#)

Aqua Renew Pond Colorant: Enrich the visual appearance of your pond with this non-toxic pond colorant. The shading also reduces sunlight penetration, thereby inhibiting bottom plant growth. It will NOT harm your fish, pets or other wildlife. Water soluble packets provide easy to throw-in application and come in a pleasing natural teal blue color. One packet treats 1/3 acre, should be applied in the spring when water flow into pond has subsided and can be used 1-2 times during season.

Barley Straw Pellets: Barley straw pellets are a natural alternative in deterring algae growth and clarifying ponds. The pellets are easy and clean to apply. Decomposition occurs quickly so the helpful by-products are released immediately. Pellets can be applied anytime during the season. 40 lb. bag treats 1/3 acre and usually applied 1x per season.