

Will mosquitofish live in my pond?

- New concrete is hazardous; allow water to stand for a few days, drain and refill with fresh water.
- Whiskey or wine barrels can emit chemicals; clean & soak thoroughly before placing fish or plants in them.
- Place large rocks on the bottom of the pond for protection against predators. Mosquitofish predators include: raccoons, cats, o'possums, egrets and herons.
- Certain plants and leaves are also harmful to mosquitofish including duckweed, pine, eucalyptus and oak.
- Copper pipe or fittings in contact with the water can kill the fish; plastic piping is preferable.



Fish rearing pond at the Shasta Mosquito & Vector Control District



If you live within the Shasta MVCD service area you can obtain fish free of charge (see map above). Call or submit a service request on the District's website:
www.shastamosquito.org.

Fish are available by delivery only.

Shasta Mosquito & Vector Control District

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Mosquitofish



Gambusia affinis



Gambusia affinis

The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District currently utilizes the most successful biological tool against larval or immature mosquitoes; *Gambusia affinis*, better known to the public as mosquitofish.



Mosquitofish, *Gambusia affinis*, is a small guppy-like fish used to control mosquito larvae. The fish have a large appetite, and a single female can devour several hundred mosquito larvae per day.

Gambusia can reproduce rapidly and are unlike other fish in that they do not lay eggs; they bear live young. Each female can produce three or four broods in her lifetime, and each brood can vary from 40 to 100 young. Birth usually occurs during the warm spring and summer months. When the young (about 3/8" long) are born, they are active and immediately swim for the nearest cover and will soon feed.

Although primarily used for mosquito control, *Gambusia affinis* will feed on other insects. Because of this, mosquitofish do not require supplemental feeding.



Neglected Swimming Pools



Ponds and Fountains



Water Troughs



The District's Aquaculture Program, indoor mosquitofish rearing.

Mosquitofish can exist in a variety of temperatures. While they prefer water temperatures 77 to 86 degrees, they can tolerate temperatures of 33 to 104 degrees. They move to lower depths and hibernate in the winter; for that reason they may not survive in shallow ponds (less than 18 inches deep).

District staff deliver and stock these fish in areas where they will quickly adapt to the habitat and multiply. These areas include: stock ponds, neglected swimming pools, ornamental and natural ponds, water troughs and water features. The fish are stocked in small numbers because they rapidly reproduce.

Mosquitofish are hardy and can live in many types of water habitats for several years. If added to ornamental ponds, they are compatible with some other fish; however, they are not compatible with bass, bluegill, catfish, perch, turtles, crayfish and frogs.