

Where do Goldfish come from?

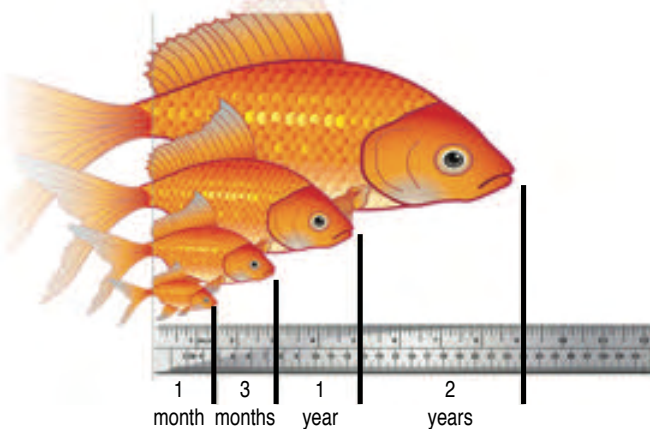
Goldfish are from East Asia and do not belong in nature in North America. When people release Goldfish into bodies of water (ponds, lakes, streams, etc.), they invade and cause major environmental problems.

Important Goldfish Facts:

- Goldfish can grow to be 30-35 cm (12-14 in) and weigh several pounds.
- Goldfish can live for 30-40 years.
- Goldfish are messy and should not be kept in small containers.
- Adults need large containers with water filtration, oxygen circulation and regular water changes.



Goldfish Growth Chart



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I don't want or can't take care of my Goldfish anymore. What should I do?

A: Pet fish (alive or dead) should never be released outside or flushed down the drain. Released fish can become invasive and/or transmit diseases. Dead fish can also transmit diseases to wild fish. Live fish may survive being flushed and end up in the wild.

To find a new home for live fish, submit a classified ad or post on social media, offer your fish to a local school, look for a rescue, or ask pet stores if they will take it.

If there are no alternatives, the next option may be to euthanize the fish. Humane methods to kill a Goldfish quickly, painlessly and without stress include using clove oil (10 drops per liter of water) to overdose the fish, or Alka Seltzer (2 tablets per liter of water) to remove oxygen from the water, rendering fish unconscious before they stop breathing. Once these methods appear effective, place your fish in a bag in the freezer overnight to ensure complete euthanasia.

Q: Where can I find more information?

A: Learn more at these websites:

www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/goldfish
www.thamesriver.on.ca



*Are you shopping for a pet fish?
Please read this first.*

Goldfish and the Environment



Prepared by the City of London
Ecological Community Advisory Committee

What are Invasive Species?



Garlic Mustard



Norway Maple



Spongy Moth



House Sparrow

Examples of invasive species introduced to North America by humans.

An invasive species is an organism that has been introduced to a new area, becomes overpopulated and harms its new environment. In Canada, hundreds of species have been introduced by humans. A subset of these are considered invasive because of their ability to spread, causing harm to other species.

Invasive species are bad for the environment because they:

- compete with *native* species that evolved here, including species at risk of extinction;
- introduce diseases and pests that native species are sensitive to;
- alter and deplete habitats and ecosystems;
- multiply quickly and can be expensive and difficult to manage.

Common ways that invasive species spread in the environment include: ‘

- dumping yard waste, plant cuttings, other organic waste in natural areas;
- gardening with/planting invasive species next to natural areas;
- on shoes, clothing and equipment;
- dumping or flushing exotic pets like Goldfish.

Goldfish infestation is a growing problem in London



Goldfish infestations currently occur in the Thames River, Westminster Ponds, Sifton Bog, The Coves and other waterways.

Dumped or flushed Goldfish harm native species by:

- growing and multiplying quickly;
- eating other fish species' eggs and young;
- eating plants and animals native species feed on;
- stirring up mud, causing cloudy water that disturbs native fish and destroys their habitat.



Released or flushed Goldfish:

- may be hunted and eaten by predators;
- may be killed by freezing, pollution or removal by conservation management.

Before you buy, consider alternatives to Goldfish



15" Goldfish recovered from Lake Ontario. Photo: Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Other types of fish or amphibians are easier to keep as aquarium pets:



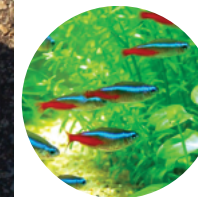
Betta fish

Live 2-5 years
Remain small, low-mess
Solitary (easier to keep alone)



Freshwater tropical fish like Guppy, Danio, Tetra, Platy

Live 1-5 years
Most remain small in size
Thrive in most water conditions
May require a water heater
Social (best kept in groups)



African dwarf frogs

Live up to 5 years
Remain small
Breathe air from water's surface
Social (best kept in groups)