

# QUICK FACTS

## GOLDFISH



Common aquarium and pond species can become invasive if introduced into the wild. Once released, this species can outcompete native species for food and habitat, reduce water clarity, and spread disease to native species.

### DON'T LET IT LOOSE!

Here's how you can help prevent the spread of Goldfish and other common aquarium species:

- 1. Stop the spread!** Never release aquarium or domestic pond water, plants or animals, dead or alive, into water bodies.
- 2. Take C.A.R.E.I Pledge to Contact** someone to adopt your pet or plant or return them to the store, to **Act** responsibly by doing your research prior to adoption, to **Report** any species of concern to EDDMapS, and to **End** ownership by burying it to avoid disease transfer or contacting a veterinarian.
- 3. Report!** If you see Goldfish sightings, report it to the EDDMapS app, or by calling 1-855-336-BOAT (2628).
- 4. Know the law!** In Alberta, it is illegal to use live bait fish and to move fish from one water body to another. Penalties for illegally transferring fish can be up to \$100,000 and/or a year in prison.





Goldfish, *Carassius auratus*

## **GOLDFISH QUICK FACTS:**

- Goldfish are native to eastern Asia and were introduced as ornamental and pet fish; however, some have been released into man-made ponds and water bodies.
- Goldfish are distinguished by golden orange colouring but can also be olive-bronze to silvery-white. A protruding mouth and a stiff serrated spine at the origin of the dorsal and anal fins is characteristic.
- They are able to spawn after one year and can lay anywhere from 500 to 1000 eggs, up to 3 times a year. Lifespan is up to 40 years.
- Goldfish are a generalist species and can persist in a wide range of environmental conditions, such as highly turbid, eutrophic waters with little to no oxygen. Once they're not restricted by their tanks, they can grow much larger (as big as a football or dinner plate!).
- Goldfish can impact native fish populations, habitat, and food availability through competition and predation. They can also be carriers of viral, bacterial, and parasitic fish pathogens of concern.
- Goldfish infestations may affect water quality by increasing the water turbidity from their feeding habits and increase the risk of algal blooms from the growth of cyanobacteria in their intestines.
- Control of goldfish can be difficult once established and requires multiple efforts. Methods for control or eradication by trained personnel include water drawdown, netting, and chemical treatments.
- Goldfish are widespread in Alberta with over 100 known locations, some as far north as Fort McMurray.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [ABINVASIVES.CA](http://ABINVASIVES.CA)**