

TREATMENT TIPS FOR FISH PONDS

Pond owners often find it necessary to treat their ponds for various reasons. For example, aquatic weeds, turbid water and fish parasites are common problems that often require treatment in order for ponds to be successful.

Some recommendations are based on surface area only in the pond. A treatment of five gallons of diesel fuel with a quart of oil mixed in per surface acre before stocking either catfish fingerlings or freshwater prawn juveniles will help control surface breathing predaceous insects. Turbidity in ponds can often be cleared by spreading 100 pounds of cottonseed meal per acre on the surface of the pond.

Other treatment recommendations are given in parts per million and require that the volume of water in a pond be calculated. The volume of water in a pond is expressed in acre-feet. Acre-feet are computed by multiplying the surface area (in acres) by the average depth (in feet). An acre-foot is a unit of volume of water having an area of one acre and a depth of one foot. Since an acre-foot of water weighs 2.7 million pounds, then 2.7 pound of a treatment material mixed in an acre-foot of water provides one part per million by weight solution.

There are two publications that are available from the University of Tennessee that can be very helpful when ponds require treatment. Calculating Area and Volume of Ponds and Tanks (SP374-Q) and Calculating Treatments for Ponds and Tanks (SP374-R) are both filled with examples of step-by-step calculations. As always, manufacturer recommendations for their treatment materials should be followed.

Thomas K. Hill*Professor University of Tennessee*

CONTROL PARASITES ON CATFISH FINGERLINGS

The presence or absence of parasites on catfish fingerlings as they are stocked into production ponds can mean the difference between success and failure. Buyers of fingerlings should insist that they be treated and free of parasites. If they plan to stay in business, sellers of fingerlings will want to diagnose and treat any parasites before the fish are stocked.

Access to a good microscope is required because most fish parasites cannot be seen without magnification. If a sample from a group of fish is examined and found to be infested with a certain parasite, it is reasonable to assume that the entire batch is infested and should be treated accordingly. Since water chemistry varies from place to place, it is a good idea to treat a few fish and observe their reaction before treating the entire group. A single treatment for parasites as fish are stocked is usually sufficient for an entire growing season.

Thomas K. Hill*Professor University of Tennessee*