

## Fish Feeding Guide

How much should you feed and how often?

First off use Purina Aquamax feed or other high quality versus cheaper feed varieties. Feed conversions are much higher making the higher priced food actually cheaper for weight gain.

As a rule of thumb, only cast enough feed so the fish will eat the food in 5 to 10 minutes. Overfeeding is a waste of money and may cause dissolved oxygen depletion. The total amount of food consumed will vary due to surface water temperature, fish species and water quality. Bluegill experience their most rapid growth in the spring and fall. This is a guide to adjust throughout the season. To maximize growth feed four times daily, spring and early summer.

Taking you through the season.... In the early spring, feed only once at the hottest part of the day. During the heat of the summer, feed mostly in early morning and late afternoon. As the water begins to cool in the fall, feed 3-4 times daily. In winter feed only once at hottest part of the day. Below is a feeding guide for bluegill based on the water surface temperature:

- **Water temperature below 55°F**

Feed only one time per day, during the warmest part of the day. Set the automatic feeder for one second. If fish are not feeding, discontinue feeding until water temperature increases above 55-60°F.

- **Water temperature between 65°F and 80°F**

Feed 4 times per day. Temperatures between 65-80°F are ideal for maximize fish growth and production. Bluegill will feed aggressively at these water temperatures. Separating the feedings by a few hours allows digestion of the food prior to next feeding.

- **Water Temperature between 80°F and 90°F**

Feed 2 times per day during the cooler parts of the day, typically at sunrise and sunset. The amount of food may need to be decreased as temperatures continue to rise. Watch the feeding as the fish tell you what they need.

**Hybrid Striped Bass-** feed little less than bluegill in the heat and little more when colder but also stop when below 55. Otherwise feed similar to bluegill. Require a much higher protein and fat feed.

**Feed Trained Bass-** similar also but use at least Aquamax 600 and consider hand feeding the largemouth nuggets.

**Channel Catfish-** You can use any cheap feed and they should be fed until water temperatures approach 70 degrees and feed best in the summer.

**For Trout:**

**Daily Pounds of Feed per 1,000 Trout**

<u>Water Temp</u> °F	<u>Average Trout Length In Inches</u>					
	5-7"	7-9"	9-11"	11-13"	13-16"	16-19"
<u>&lt; 45</u>	1-5 pounds of feed, 1-3 times per week					
<u>45</u>	2	5	6	7	10	14
<u>50</u>	2.6	5.2	7.8	11	16	20
<u>55</u>	3	5.4	8.6	13	18	24
<u>60</u>	3.6	6.4	10.8	15	20	26
<u>65</u>	4.4	7.6	12.4	16	22	30

For example: You purchased 200 11-13 inch trout. Water temperature is 60°F.  $200/1000 \times 15$  pounds of feed per day = 3 pounds of feed per day

- Feed where food is gone in 5 mins.
- If you have a feeder feed up to three times a day so it eh example you would have each feeding dispersing 1lb. If hand feeding, fed at the same place at the same time.
- It is advisable to restrict feeding to 1-3 times per week when the water temperature is less than 45°F or greater than 68°F. Feeding once water temps are over 75 on the surface may actually speed up the mortality of the trout.