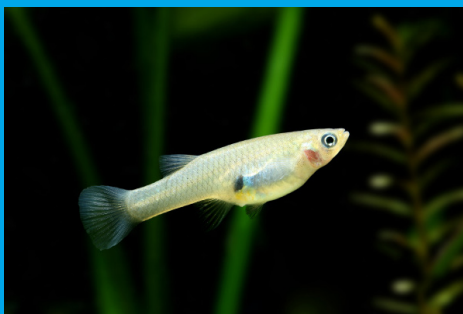




Mosquitofish Stocking in Backyard Ponds

An environmentally friendly solution to mosquito control



County of Santa Clara Vector Control District

1580 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112
Mon – Fri, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(408) 918-4770 | www.sccvector.org

@sccvcd    

Please be advised

It is against California Department of Fish and Game regulations for private citizens to plant mosquitofish into waters of the state without a permit. (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 1, Sections 1.63 and 238.5; and California Fish and Game Code, Section 6400).

How to Prepare Your Mosquitofish

Stocking backyard ponds, fountains, and rain barrels with predatory mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) can reduce mosquito larvae all season long. While mosquitofish are a hardy species, water temperature and water quality must be considered before adding them to a new environment.

Prepare the environment

Mosquitofish cannot survive in water that is treated with chlorine or chloramine. Following the label, treat tap water with a water conditioner. These can be found at your local pet store. Make sure the water conditioner treats chlorine, chloramines, and ammonia.

Help them acclimate to their new environment

The fish will be given to you in a plastic bag. When you get home, immediately float the bag in the pond, fountain, etc. Wait 20 minutes before introducing your fish into their new home.

Maintenance

Mosquitofish of all ages have strong appetites for mosquito larvae, bacteria, and aquatic vegetation. Although mosquitofish may not need supplementary food throughout the year, mosquito larvae may be scarce during winter. In this case, fish flakes or crumbled dog food may be given.

Learn more

For additional information on mosquitofish, please visit sccvector.org/mosquitofish.