



**Aquatic
Systems, Inc.**

Lake & Wetland
Management Services



Vertex
Water Features

Lake Aeration Systems
& Floating Fountains

Triploid Grass Carp Stocking by Aquatic Systems, Inc.

Dear Valued Customer at

Today Aquatic Systems, Inc. introduced triploid grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) (picture 1), also known as white amur, into the waterway(s) on your property. Triploid grass carp are herbivorous fresh water fish used as part of our integrated approach to lake management. The introduction of these biological controls supplements other techniques used by Aquatic Systems, Inc. to control nuisance vegetation in your pond(s). Grass carp can aid in the control of many aquatic plants reducing the amount of aquatic herbicides applied to your waterways. Carp also have the advantage of providing consistent control as they continually graze eating up to 80% of their body weight in aquatic plants each day.



Picture 1 Triploid Grass Carp

Grass carp are exotic to the United States, hailing originally from eastern Asia. Grass carp are sterilized during artificial spawning at hatcheries in a process that forces a third set of chromosomes into the cells resulting in triploid (as opposed to diploid) fish, hence the commonly used term triploid grass carp. This precaution is required by many states, including Florida, to protect against uncontrolled reproduction of escaped grass carp in natural waters of the state. A red blood cell sample from each fish is tested at the hatchery prior to delivery to ensure ploidy. Grass carp can live for up to 10 years and reach up to 40 pounds, however due to predation and food availability, many of the carp released today will not reach these proportions.

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Permitting by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is required to release grass carp in Florida waters. Carp containment barriers (picture 2) are required at outfall sites in most situations where carp are to be released. Where required, we have installed or repaired existing carp containment barriers and insured there was a current grass carp permit for your property site prior to stocking. Aquatic Systems, Inc. will report the size and number of carp released at your property after stocking to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission so they may adjust the number of carp left on your permit for future stockings. We carefully consider many factors when deciding the number and size of carp to release in each pond including: known predators, desirable vegetation, nuisance vegetation, vegetation density, and previous stocking history. We typically stock from 5-20 carp per surface acre ranging in size from 8 to 14 inches depending on the above factors.



Picture 2. Carp Containment Barrier on Pond Outfall

Thank you for your cooperation during this permitting and stocking process. Please do not hesitate to contact us at (800)-432-4302 if you have any questions or if we may be of further service. For additional information on grass carp and permitting please visit the links below.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FA043>

Grass Carp: A Fish for Biological Management of Hydrilla and Other Aquatic Weeds in Florida, David L. Sutton and Vernon V. Vandiver, Jr., University of Florida IFAS Extension

http://myfwc.com/license/FreshwaterPermit_grasscarp.htm

Triploid Grass Carp, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Pamphlet

<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/aquaculture/triploid.htm>, Triploid Grass Carp as a Biological Control of Aquatic Vegetation, Larry Sanders, Jan Jeffrey Hoover, and K. Jack Killgore, West Virginia University Extension Service