

Tropical Fish

Now that you have set up your aquarium and are starting to think about adding fish, you have many choices to choose from. One specific type of fish is the tropical fish, found in tropical waters all over the world and in areas near the equator. They can live in fresh water such as ponds, lakes, streams and even oceans that are salt water. In home aquariums, tropical fish are usually kept in heated fish tanks or in areas where the ambient room temperature is between 70°F - 82°F. As you make your decisions, be sure to research their compatibility, hardiness and if they are a schooling fish or not. Selecting the right fish will help ensure that you have hours of enjoyment and success.

Today, many freshwater fish are captive bred either in fish farms or by hobbyists, making them readily available and easy to find. Popular freshwater tropical fish include Bettas, Guppies, Tetras, Swordtails, Platys, Barbs, Mollies and Corydoras among others.

Sometimes people starting out in the aquatic hobby may not always provide their fish with ideal living conditions. Fish recommended for beginners and new aquariums must be durable and able to handle sometimes-poor water quality and stressful living conditions. The list included here are freshwater fish and will provide you with a nice assortment to consider.



Cold-Water Fish

The most common cold-water fish species is the goldfish but there are many other fish species that do not require a heated tank such as White Cloud Mountain Minnows, Bloodfin Tetras, and Rosy Barbs among others; where their preferred water temperature is between 64 to 72 degrees F. Nonetheless, keep in mind when kept in a household aquarium, just because these fish are capable of surviving in an unheated aquarium, their temperature requirements may vary.

Goldfish, due the size they grow to as they mature, are not recommended for small desktop aquariums but instead in larger aquariums or ponds. However, there are a number of cold-water fish recommended here that will do quite well in smaller aquariums.



Betta Fish

One of the most popular pet fish species is the beautiful betta fish. Aside from their lovely coloring and flowing fins, they are easy to care for.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: Up to 2.5 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 82°F

pH: 6.5 - 7.0

Lifespan: 2 - 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible. Do not keep two males in the same tank as they are territorial and may fight

Aquarium Size: 1-gallon or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Danios and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, pelleted, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as bloodworms, daphnia and brine shrimp

Tank Region: Middle to top levels

Gender: Male betta has elegant, flowing tail and fins, while the females are shorter

Breeding: Egg layers, bubble nest

Origin: Southeast Asia

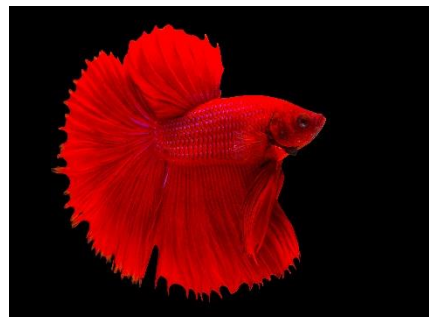
Color: Variety



Doubletail



Crowntail



Halfmoon



Golden Veiltail

Fancy Guppies

One of the world's most popular and widely distributed freshwater tropical fish.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 2.5 inches

Temperature: 76°F - 82°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.5

Life span: 1 to 2 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish, sometimes can be nippy

Aquarium Size: 3 gallons or larger

Breeding: Live Bearer

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Rainbows, Rasbora, Corydoras Catfish, Gourami, Swordtails, Platys, Mollies and Tetras

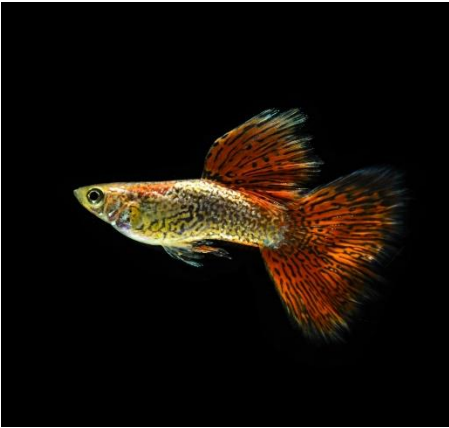
Diet / Foods: Accepts good quality flake, sinking pellets, frozen daphnia, mysis shrimp and brine shrimp

Tank Region: All over

Gender: Females will have thicker bodies; males will be slenderer with more color and longer fins

Origin: East Asia

Colors: Variety



Red Lace Snakeskin



Platinum King Cobra



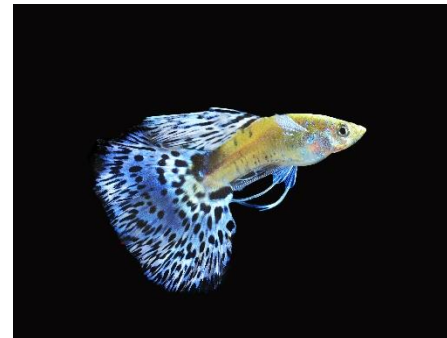
Blue Grass



Yellow Tuxedo



Metal Yellow Cobra



Mosaic

Zebra Danio

The Zebra Danio is a highly active swimmer, especially when kept in small schools. Hardy and compatible with the majority of freshwater fish. Ideal for beginners.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: Up to 2 inches

Temperature: 65°F - 75°F

pH: 6.5 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible, best kept in schools of four or more of same; can nip tank mate's fins

Aquarium Size: 1 gallon or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Mollies, Bettas, Guppies, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Danios and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: Middle to top levels

Gender: Males have yellow in between the black stripes while females are sometimes larger

Breeding: Egg layers

Origin: India



Leopard Danio



The Pearl Danio does well with other Danio species and other peaceful fish of similar size. Keep in a small school as this fish is very active. Be sure to keep the hood closed or they can jump.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: Up to 2 inches

Temperature: 73°F - 77°F

pH: 6.5 - 7.0

Lifespan: 5 - 7 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible. Does well with similar Danio species plus other peaceful fish of comparable size

Aquarium Size: 5 gallon or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Guppies, Betta, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra and Pearl Danios, and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, and tubifex

Tank Region: Middle level

Breeding: Egg layers

Origin: Asia, India, and Thailand

Giant Danio

The Giant Danio is an active fish and should be kept in a group of three or more fish, requiring an aquarium with plenty of swimming room. Be sure to keep the hood closed on the aquarium, as they can be jumpers when startled.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: Up to 4 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 82°F

Lifespan: 5 - 7 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with tank mates, Danios are schooling fish and like to swim in groups

Aquarium Size: 6.5 gallon or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Gourami, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Barbs, Danios and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: Middle level

Gender: Males tend to be smaller, slimmer and more colorful

Breeding: Egg layers

Origin: India



White Cloud Mountain Minnow



The White Cloud Mountain Minnow is a small, undemanding, and peaceful fish. Very active, does well in most community aquariums.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Life span: 3 - 5 years generally, possibly longer

Size: Up to 2 inches

Temperature: 45°F - 70°F

pH: 6.0 - 8.0

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible; best kept in schools of four or more of same

Aquarium Size: 1 gallon or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Swordtails, Platys, Mollies, Tetras and Corydoras Catfish.

Diet/Foods: Flake food including pellet, frozen and freeze-dried foods

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: Males are more colorful than the females; males are also thinner while females are fuller bodied

Breeding: Egg layers

Origin: Asia, China and Vietnam

Black Molly

Black Mollies are one of the most popular in fish keeping. Peaceful community fish, does well with many others.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 2 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 78°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with others; recommended one male for every two females

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The female is usually bigger than the male and the male has a modified smaller anal fin than the female

Breeding: Live bearers, if you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Central America and South America



Gold Molly



Gold Mollies are peaceful community fish, does well with many others. One of the more colorful and more popular aquarium fish.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 3 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 78°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 3 - 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with other; recommended one male for every two females

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger.

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The female is usually bigger than the male and the male has a modified smaller anal fin than the female

Breeding: Live bearers, if you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Southern USA and Central America

Silver Sailfin Molly

Silver Sailfin Mollies are peaceful community fish, does well with many others. One of the more colorful and most popular aquarium fish.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 3 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 78°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 3 - 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: The Sailfin Molly requires a spacious aquarium to swim in with very little vegetation. It is usually advisable to keep one pair in each tank, as males are more aggressive towards each other

Aquarium Size: 4 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Gourami, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish.

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The female is usually bigger than the male and the male has a modified smaller anal fin than the female

Breeding: Live bearers, if you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Central America



Red-Wag Platy



An ideal community fish, easy to keep and reproduce. Keep two females with each male to help minimize constant harassment.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 3 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 78°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with others

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, Mollies, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, tubifex and daphnia

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The female is usually bigger than the male and the male platy has a modified smaller anal fin than the female

Breeding: Live bearers. If you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Mexico

Green Calico Platy

Platys are extremely active and an ideal community fish. They enjoy being in groups, but they are not a schooling fish. When it comes to male and female ratio, it is recommended to keep one male to two females, this will aid in minimizing the female's stress, as the male will continuously bother them.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 3 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 78°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with others

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Mollies, Guppies,

Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, tubifex and daphnia

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The female is usually bigger than a male and the male platy has a modified smaller anal fin than the female

Breeding: Live bearers, if you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Mexico



High Fin Platy



Platies are one of the most popular in fish keeping.

Peaceful community fish, does well with many others.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 2 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 78°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible.

Recommended one male for every two females

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Mollies, Guppies, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The female is usually bigger than a male and the male has a modified smaller anal fin than the female.

Breeding: Live bearers, if you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Central America

Variatus Platy

Ideal fish for both beginners and experienced aquarists, platies are easy to keep and breed.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 3 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 78°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Mollies, Guppies, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet / Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, tubifex and daphnia

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The female is usually bigger than a male and the male platy has a modified smaller anal fin than the female

Breeding: Live bearers, if you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Southern USA and Central America



Green Swordtail



The Swordtail is a hardy livebearer and ideal for beginners. The males are easily identified due to the shape of the tail (caudal fin), resembling a sword. They are peaceful, hardy and colorful.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 2 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 79°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible, recommend one male for every two females

Aquarium Size: 3 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Guppies, Mollies, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, algae flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The males will have the 'sword' and modified anal fin. Females have gravid patch behind stomach area

Breeding: Live bearers, if you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Central America

Neon Swordtail

Swordtails are generally very peaceful and make excellent community fish. Recommend to house one male with several females to keep the male from bothering the females constantly.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 2 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 79°F

pH: 7.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible. Recommend one male for every two females

Aquarium Size: 3 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Guppies, Mollies, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, algae flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The males will have the 'sword' tail fin and modified anal fin, females have gravid patch behind stomach area

Breeding: Live bearers. If you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Central America



Red Swordtail



Like most livebearers, swordtails reproduce quite often and require no special effort when breeding.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 2 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 79°F

pH: 7.0 – 8.0

Lifespan: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible; recommend one male for every two females

Aquarium Size: 3 gallons or larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Guppies, Mollies, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, algae flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The males will have the 'sword' tail fin and modified anal fin, females have gravid patch behind stomach area

Breeding: Live bearers, if you have a male and a female, there is a good chance they will have offspring

Origin: Central America

Black Neon Tetra

Tetras are a good choice for beginners. They are active, colorful, hardy and get along well with other tank mates, an ideal community tank fish.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 1.5 - 2 inches

Temperature: 73°F - 81°F

pH: 6.8 - 6.9

Life span: 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Gourami, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen food such as brine shrimp and bloodworms.

Tank Region: Middle to top level

Gender: Males have slimmer bodies; females are fuller bodied

Origin: South America, Brazil



Bloodfin Tetra



Tetras are active, colorful, hardy and get along well with other tank mates. Many of them make great choices for a beginner's community tank.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: up to 2 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 80°F

pH: 6.0 - 8.0

Life span: 6 - 8 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible

Aquarium Size: 5 gallons or larger

Temperament/Behavior: This fish should be kept in a small school of four or more to help keep it peaceful, occasionally may nip tank mate's tails

Breeding: Egg layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Guppies, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, a peaceful fish that is best kept in a small school with same kind

Diet/Foods: Flake food is their primary diet but can be fed frozen brine shrimp and frozen bloodworms occasionally

Tank Region: Middle to top level

Gender: Can be difficult to determine since females may be more full bodied and have less red on the fins, males are usually slenderer with more red on the fins

Origin/Habitat: South America river basins

Black Skirt Tetra

The Black Skirt Tetra is a very peaceful, schooling fish, ideal for community tanks.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 2.5 inches

Temperature: 69°F - 84°F

pH: 6.0 - 8.5

Life span: 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 3 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Rainbows, Red Rasbora, Corydoras, Gourami, Swordtails, Platys and other Tetras; they can however be a bit nippy when kept with fish that have long and flowing fins, such as Bettas

Diet/Foods: Keep them on a varied diet, such as flake food, frozen food like brine shrimp and bloodworms

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: The female is typically fuller bodied than the male with the anal fin of the female narrower than the male's anal fin

Origin: South America rivers, Bolivia, Brazil and Argentina



Neon Tetra



The Neon Tetra is another popular and easy to care for beginner fish that is an excellent addition to nearly any community tank. These active fish do well when kept in a school of four or more.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 1.5 - 2 inches

Temperature: 73°F - 81°F

pH: 6.8 - 6.9

Life span: 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish.

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Guppies, Mollies, Swordtails, Platies, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen food such as brine shrimp and bloodworms

Tank Region: Middle to top level

Gender: Males have slimmer bodies while females are fuller bodied

Origin: South America, Brazil

Glowlight Tetra

Ideal beginner fish, they should be kept with similar sized and non-aggressive tank mates. As with other small tetras, this fish does best in a school of 4 or more.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 1.5 inches

Temperature: 73°F - 81°F

pH: 6.0 - 7.5

Life span: 2 - 4 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Guppies, Mollies, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen food such as brine shrimp and bloodworms

Tank Region: Middle to top level

Gender: Males are noticeably slenderer, females fuller bodied

Origin: South America, Guyana



Lemon Tetra



Does well in community tanks. Best keep in schools of four or more.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 1.5 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 80°F

pH: 6.0 - 7.5

Life span: 2 - 4 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Bettas, Mollies Guppies, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras, Zebra Danios, White Clouds and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen food such as brine shrimp and bloodworms

Tank Region: Middle to top level

Gender: Males are smaller and tend to be more colorful

Origin: South America

Rummy Nose Tetra

The Rummy Nose Tetra is very peaceful and can make excellent community tank mates if housed with similar sized fish.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 2 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 79°F

pH: 6.0 - 7.0

Life span: 5 - 6 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Rainbows, Rasbora, Corydoras Catfish, Gourami, Swordtails, Platys and other Tetras

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen food such as brine shrimp and bloodworms

Tank Region: All over the tank

Gender: Males are smaller and slenderer

Origin: South America, Brazil and Colombia



Harlequin Rasbora



The Harlequin Rasbora is an attractive and peaceful schooling fish, ideal for a community tank.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 2 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 79°F

pH: 6.0 - 7.0

Life span: 4 - 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 5 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Tetras, Bettas, Mollies, Guppies, Swordtails, Platys, and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen food such as brine shrimp and bloodworms

Tank Region: Middle to top level

Gender: Males are smaller, females fuller bodied

Origin: Thailand

Cherry Barb

The Cherry Barb is an active, colorful and popular aquarium fish. They do well in a school of three or more and are less likely to bother other fish when in a group of same; Cherry Barbs can sometimes nip fins of slower moving, long-finned tank mates.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: Up to 2 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 80°F

pH: 6.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 5 - 7 years

Temperament/Behavior: Peaceful and best kept in schools of three or more, can be shy until acclimated to new aquarium

Aquarium Size: 5 gallons and larger

Compatible Tank Mates: Gourami, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras and Corydoras Catfish; a peaceful fish that is best kept in a small school with same

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: Throughout the tank

Gender: The male is usually bigger and turns bright red during spawning

Breeding: Egg layers

Origin: Sri Lanka



Rosy Barb



A peaceful fish that is best kept in a small school with same kind; does well in community tanks and with other barbs, may nip longer-finned tank inhabitants such as betta fish.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: Up to 4 inches

Temperature: 64° F - 72°F

pH: 6.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 5 years

Temperament: Peaceful, does well in a community aquarium with only an occasional nip on a tank mate's fins

Aquarium Size: 6.5 gallon or larger since they require space

Compatible Tank Mates: Gourami, Swordtails, Platys, Tetras and Corydoras Catfish

Diet/Food: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: Middle to bottom levels of the tank

Gender: The male is usually smaller, stream lined and sometimes turns a more golden/orange color during spawning

Breeding: Egg layers

Origin: Asia, India, Singapore

Tiger Barb

Generally, they can be a bit aggressive type of fish, so there is a possibility that they will nip the fins from other slower, long-finned fish.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: Up to 3 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 82°F

pH: 6.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 5 - 7 years

Temperament/Behavior: Active, best kept in schools of four or more

Aquarium Size: 6.5 gallon or larger since they like to school

Compatible Tank Mates: Danios, Tetras and Platys, majority of Catfish species can be kept with these fish as well; does well in community tanks and Barb themed aquarium setups, may fin nip longer-finned tank mates such as bettas

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: Middle to bottom levels of the tank

Gender: The male is usually smaller and more stream lined

Breeding: Egg layers

Origin: Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo in Indonesia



Albino Tiger Barb



Albino Tiger Barbs are very lively, active fish that prefer to be in schools; may bother and/or nip the fins of larger, slower-moving fish.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: Up to 3 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 82°F

pH: 6.0 - 8.0

Lifespan: 5 - 7 years

Temperament/Behavior: Active and best kept in schools of four or more

Aquarium Size: 6.5 gallon or larger since they like to school

Compatible Tank Mates: Danios, Tetras and Platys, majority of Catfish species can be kept with these fish as well, best kept in a small school with same; does well in community tanks and Barb themed aquarium setups, may fin nip longer-finned tank mates such as bettas

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen and freeze-dried foods such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia

Tank Region: Middle to bottom levels of the tank

Gender: The male is usually smaller and more stream lined

Breeding: Egg layers

Origin: Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo in Indonesia

Dwarf Gourami

Dwarf gourami are generally peaceful fish, unlike other species of gourami which can become aggressive. The dwarf gourami is extremely hardy, and their ability to breathe from the surface allows them to tolerate less than ideal water conditions for short periods of time.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Size: 3 inches

Temperature: 75°F - 82°F

pH: 6 - 8

Life span: 3 - 4 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with other fish

Aquarium Size: 6.5 gallons or larger

Recommended Tank Mates: Platys, Swordtails, Mollies, Tetras and some Barbs, they can be slightly territorial with other Dwarf Gourami

Diet/Foods: Flake, freeze dried and live foods, vary their diet for optimum health

Tank Region: Middle to top level

Gender: Males are more colorful while females are usually gray; male's dorsal fin is pointed, while the female's is rounded or curved

Breeding: Egg layers

Origin: Pakistan, India and Bangladesh



Corydoras Albino



These active catfish are excellent community fish, able to tolerate a wide range of water parameters.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: up to 3 inches

Tank Region: Bottom level

Temperature: 70°F - 79°F

pH: 7.0

Life span: 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Guppies, Bettas, Gourami, Swordtails, Platys, Mollies and Tetras

Diet/Foods: Sinking pellets, granular foods and wafers, frozen food such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia occasionally

Gender: Adult females are larger and thicker-bodied than males

Origin: South America

Corydoras Bronze

Corydoras are hardy fish and are considered a must-have in freshwater community tanks and are very popular with beginner fish keepers. Corydoras are very social, especially with other Corydoras, peaceful with other tank mates and have a non-aggressive temperament.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: up to 3 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 79°F

pH: 7.0

Life span: 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Temperament/Behavior: Peaceful with all other fish

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Guppies, Bettas, Gourami, Swordtails, Platys, Mollies and Tetras

Diet/Foods: Sinking pellets, granular foods and wafers, frozen food such as brine shrimp, bloodworms and daphnia occasionally

Tank Region: Bottom level

Gender: Adult females are larger and thicker-bodied than males

Origin: South America



Otocinclus Catfish



Otocinclus Catfish are hardy fish and are considered a must-have in freshwater community tanks, very popular with beginner fish keepers. Ideal for keeping unwanted algae from aquarium.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: up to 3 inches

Temperature: 72°F - 80°F

pH: 7.0

Life span: 3 - 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 2 gallons or larger

Temperament/Behavior: Peaceful with all other fish

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Guppies, Bettas, Gourami, Swordtails, Platys, Mollies and Tetras

Diet/Foods: Algae wafers, sinking pellets, granular foods, frozen food

Tank Region: Bottom level

Gender: Females are usually larger and thicker-bodied than males

Origin: South America

Banded Rainbow

These hardy, active fish do well with a variety of community fish. A schooling fish.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 4-6 inches

Temperature: 75°F - 82°F

pH: 6.6 - 8.0

Life span: 3 - 5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 7 gallons or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Mollies, Corydoras Catfish,

Gourami, Swordtails, Platys and Tetras

Diet/Foods: Flake food, frozen food such as brine shrimp and bloodworms

Tank Region: Middle to top level

Gender: Males tend to be larger and deeper bodied with more intense coloration

Origin: Australia



Ornamental Shrimp



Easy to keep, simple to breed, and effortless when it comes to being successful, even for a beginner. Not only are freshwater shrimp brightly colored with unique personalities, they provide a service also, helping to keep your aquarium clean.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 1.5 - 2 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 78°F

pH: 7.0 - 7.8

Life span: 1 - 1.5 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with other fish

Aquarium Size: 1 gallon or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Corydoras Catfish, Guppies, Swordtails, Platys, Mollies and Tetras

Diet/Foods: Fish flakes, shrimp pellets, fish pellets, and algae wafers

Tank Region: Throughout the tank

Gender: Females have much rounder abdomens to carry the eggs externally, while a male's abdomen is thinner and curves inwards slightly

Origin: Eastern Asia

Amano Shrimp

The Amano Shrimp is a peaceful freshwater shrimp that is ideal for controlling algae as well as eating leftover food.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 1.5 - 2 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 78°F

pH: 6.5 - 7.5

Life span: 2 - 3 years

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 1 gallon or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Corydoras Catfish, Guppies, Swordtails, Platys, Mollies and Tetras

Diet/Foods: Fish flakes, shrimp pellets, fish pellets, and algae wafers

Tank Region: Throughout the tank

Gender: Females have much rounder abdomens to carry the eggs externally, while a male's abdomen is thinner and curves inwards slightly; the easiest way to differentiate the sexes is by looking at the lowest row of dots and dashes on their sides, males will have distinctly separated dots, while females will have stripes and distorted circles instead

Origin: Japan



Ghost Shrimp



Ghost shrimp (also known as Glass shrimp), are easy to care for, active, and hardy. Be careful not to keep them with larger fish as they may become preyed on.

Care Level: Beginners and up

Mature Size: 1.5 - 2 inches

Temperature: 70°F - 78°F

pH: 6.5 - 8

Life span: 1 year

Temperament/Behavior: Hardy, peaceful and compatible with all other fish

Aquarium Size: 1 gallon or larger

Breeding: Egg Layers

Compatible Tank Mates: Corydoras Catfish, Guppies, Swordtails, Platys, Mollies and Tetras

Diet/Foods: Fish flakes, shrimp pellets, fish pellets, and algae wafers

Tank Region: Throughout the tank

Gender: Females are also larger than the males and have a very pronounced ridge along the top end of the tail

Origin: North America