



## PUMPKINSEED

### Identification

- "Frying pan" shaped
- Green back, red-orange belly; orange spots on the sides
- **Red spot on the tip of the gill cover** (Bluegill do not have this red spot)

### Habitat

- Prefer cool to warm waters of large and small lakes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers.
- Usually found schooling in weedy areas or around submerged trees.

### Spawning Patterns

- Late spring to early summer when water temperatures reach 20°C.
- Males construct a nest in water 6-12 inches deep; usually in areas with lots of submerged vegetation. Males spawn in the same nest several times with multiple females.
- An average female lays between 1,500 and 3,000 eggs. The eggs hatch in as little as three days and the males guard the nest for up to 12 days. After fry leave the nest, the males may prepare another nest to spawn again.

### Diet

- Small aquatic insects like midges, amphipods, dragonfly and mayfly nymphs, and ants.

### Age and Size

- Can live 8-10 years.
- Usually 6-10 inches long; Ontario Angler Award minimum length is 9 inches.
- Ontario record weight is 1.00 lb.

### Fishing Tips

- Popular among young anglers due to their abundance and availability.
- Use small spinners or a bobber and worm; smaller is typically better.
- Cast near weeds, sunken trees, off a dock, or from shore and hang on for some great action and tasty eating.
- The white flaky flesh has a sweet taste.