



## BLUEGILL

### Identification

- "Frying pan" shaped
- Faint vertical stripes
- Dark patch on soft dorsal fin
- **Black gill cover** (no red spot like Pumpkinseed)

### Habitat

- Prefer moderately clear water, with moderate weed growth, and warm water temperatures.

### Spawning Patterns

- Late spring to early summer when water temperatures reach 20°C.
- Males build nests in shallow water, clearing silt down to the hard bottom. They guard the eggs and fry until they disperse.
- A single 7-inch female can lay up to 38,000 eggs.

### Diet

- Consists mainly of larval insects and plankton.
- Can feed aggressively on fry of other fish, particularly in the spring.

### 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 1.83 lb.

### Fishing Tips

- Very aggressive and generally found in schools. They are hard fighters for their size, making them an excellent fish for children to catch. They have white flaky flesh that is delicious.
- Live baits like small worms and grubs work well. Also, try using a bobber and small wet or dry flies.