

# Invasive Species Alert

## Grass Carp

(*Ctenopharyngodon idella*)

\*Detected in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Can reach lengths of more than 5 feet, weight can reach more than 80 lbs.
- Eyes sit even with the mouth
- Large scales that appear crosshatched
- Shorter dorsal fin than goldfish or common carp



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B49OWrCRs38&feature=youtu.be>

**Habitat:** Preferred habitat for grass carp are quiet, shallow waters. When temperatures decrease, deeper waters are used. Grass carp are tolerant to low levels of salinity, so they may occasionally enter brackish water.

**Diet:** Obligate herbivores - consume between 20% and 100% of their body weight per day

**Native Range:** Eastern Asia from the Amur River to eastern Russia and China south to West River of southern China

**U.S. Distribution:** Grass carp have been recorded in 45 states in the U.S. They have not been reported as introduced to Alaska, Maine, Montana, Rhode Island, or Vermont.



Oxford, North Carolina, USDA APHIS  
PPQ, Bugwood.org

**Local Concern:** Grass carp consume massive amounts of aquatic vegetation. This puts grass carp in direct competition with native fish, waterfowl, and invertebrate species. Grass carp only digest about half of the food they eat. Any remaining plant material expelled enriches the water and promotes algal blooms. There is also a potential for transmissible parasites and diseases.

**Potential Means of Introduction:** Dispersal, unauthorized stocking or release, escape from commercial culture

For more information and videos, please visit:  
[Michigan.gov/Invasives](http://Michigan.gov/Invasives).

Report this species to Lucas Nathan,  
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517-284-6235 or at  
[misin.msu.edu](http://misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN  
app to your smartphone