

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

PUMPKINSEED

(Lepomis gibbosus)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS ANIMAL?

DESCRIPTION

Pumpkinseed...

- Are deep-bodied (tall), laterally compressed (thin), and somewhat disc-shaped.
- Grow up to 20 cm long as adults.
- Have an orange to red-orange breast and belly.
- Are brown to olive coloured overall.
- Are speckled with orange, yellow, blue, and emerald spots on back and sides.
- Breeding males are particularly colourful.



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www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

PRIMARY THREAT:

Pumpkinseed compete with, and predate on, native species.

SPREAD

Pumpkinseed have been intentionally stocked in B.C. for sport fishing and introduced by aquarium owners who can no longer care for them. They have also spread through the Columbia River system into B.C. from introduced populations in Washington and Idaho. Pumpkinseed populations can grow rapidly as females lay 600 to 14,000 eggs at a time. Males then guard eggs until they hatch into fry. Depending on food and temperature, Pumpkinseed fry can grow quickly. The diet of adult Pumpkinseed consists of a variety of prey species, allowing them to survive in different habitat types.

Pumpkinseed are typically found in shallow waters within quiet, slow-moving streams, small lakes, and ponds. They prefer clear, warm waters and areas with submerged vegetation. Populations of Pumpkinseed are found in many locations in southern B.C., but their expansion into central and northern B.C. is likely limited by their preference for warmer water temperatures.

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species>



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PUMPKINSEED (*Lepomis gibbosus*)



Image credit: Duane Raver,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (CCO)

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DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

Pumpkinseed are native to the Atlantic Slope drainages from New Brunswick to South Carolina, extending into waterbodies of Kentucky, Missouri and Georgia States. Along the border between the U.S. and Canada they range throughout the Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and Mississippi basin, reaching as far west as North Dakota and southern Manitoba. Their current extent in B.C. includes numerous recorded occurrences in the Kootenay-Boundary, Thompson-Okanagan, South Coast and West Coast regions.

LOOK-ALIKES:

Pumpkinseed can be confused with Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*) and Black Crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*). To distinguish Pumpkinseed from the former, look for a black operculum flap (covers gills) with a **distinct red spot in a half-moon shape on the rear edge of the operculum flap**, or their **seven or eight dark, vertical side-bands that are more irregular and fainter than those of the Bluegill**; Pumpkinseed also have **several narrow, wavy stripes, alternating orange-brown or light blue**. To distinguish them from Black Crappie, look at the length of the anal (bottom side closest to tail) and the dorsal (top) fin bases, which are **equal lengths for the Black Crappie, while the anal fin base is half the length of the dorsal fin for Pumpkinseed**. Warmouth (*Lepomis gulosus*) also resemble Pumpkinseed, and are on the Provincial Prevent list, though there have been no confirmed introductions of Warmouth in B.C.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Do not transfer and/or release live Pumpkinseed in B.C.
- Before purchasing a fish for an aquarium, be aware of the type of species it is and the size it will potentially grow to.
- Do not use live fish as bait.
- Raise awareness to avoid further spread in B.C. freshwaters.

DID YOU KNOW?

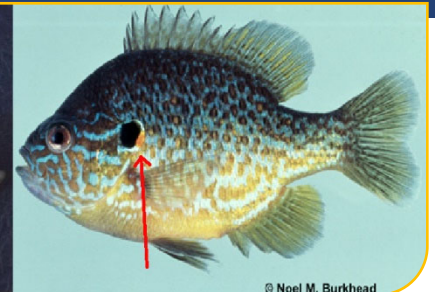
Pumpkinseed have been known to hybridize with Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), another non-native species found in B.C. waters.

For more information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species>



Bluegill

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Montana Fish Wildlife
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Pumpkinseed

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Black Crappie

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