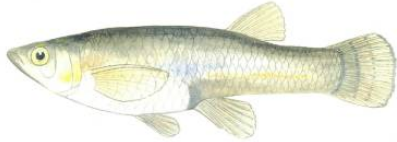


MOSQUITO FISH

(Gambusia affinis)



Female



Male

The mosquito fish, *Gambusia affinis*, is a small guppy-like fish used to control mosquito larvae. The fish have a large appetite, and a single female (which normally is larger than a male) can devour several hundred mosquito larvae per day.

Gambusia can reproduce rapidly and are unlike other fish in that they do not lay eggs; they bear live young. Each female can produce three to four broods in her lifetime, and each brood can vary from 40 to 100 young. Birth usually occurs during the warm spring and summer months. When the young, about 3/8 inch long, are born, they are active and immediately swim for the nearest cover and will soon feed.

Mosquito fish are hardy and can live in many types of water habitats for several years. The Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District plants thousands of mosquito fish each year in ponds, swamps, canals, creeks, water troughs, etc. which help provide mosquito control. The fish inhabit the shallow edges of ponds and creeks because of the abundance of food and to escape predation by larger fish such as bass and perch. Mosquito fish are distributed free of charge to residents within the District.

Please call the District to check on mosquito fish availability.

Shasta Mosquito and Vector Control District

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