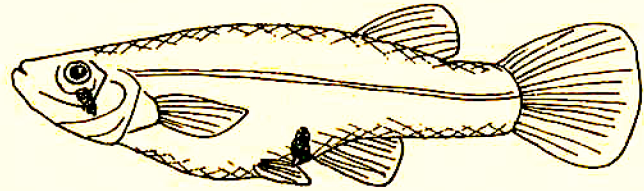


MOSQUITOFISH

Gambusia affinis



Male



Female

The mosquitofish, *Gambusia affinis*, is a topminnow from North America that is used throughout the world to control mosquito larvae. These fish are adaptable, hardy, and produce large numbers of young in a short period of time. One female will give birth to 40-60 live young per brood and may have 3-6 broods per summer.

Mosquitofish live 2 to 3 years, although many will die in cold weather. Female *Gambusia* can reach 2.5 inches in length; males are smaller, usually 1.5 inches in length.

Gambusia eat almost anything. One adult fish can eat 100-500 mosquito larvae per day. In warm weather, extra food is not needed. If no natural food is present, they need to be fed. Regular fish food is fine, but even crushed dry dog food can be used. *Gambusia* eat the eggs of goldfish and koi and are usually not used in ponds where these fish are bred.

Algae in limited amounts do not harm *Gambusia*, but can be unsightly. Chlorine should not be used to control algae because it kills mosquitofish. Most pet stores have or can get for you a preparation with directions for use in fish ponds to control algae.

To help mosquitofish adjust to a new home, place the container and fish directly into the pond for 10-15 minutes so the pond and container water are nearly the same temperature. You may then release the fish into the pond. Although *Gambusia* can live in water that is between 33° and 100°F, they prefer water that is between 77° and 86°F.

The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District has mosquitofish for residents of the District free of charge. The fish can be delivered to your residence by one of our Technicians or may be picked up from the district office. If you have further questions or would like to schedule delivery or pickup of mosquitofish, ***please contact the District at (626) 814-9466.***

San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District

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