

Adding fish

An aquaponics system is nothing without fish. There is one important question to answer before stocking the tank with fish:

"Will the fish be for eating or not?"



Rainbow Trout (opencage.info)

Most people stock the tank with fish that can be eaten. However, in real terms, any fish that will live in fresh water will do. Vegetarians, vegans and others who do not want to eat the fish in their systems often stock with goldfish or Koi. The following section discusses the types of and factors relating to eating fish that are good in aquaponics systems. These fish can also be used for ornamental aquaponics systems.

Choosing a type of fish

The choice of fish is dependent on two factors, namely:

1. The temperature, i.e. time of year
2. What you want to eat?

Below is a standard list of fish used in aquaponics:

Barramundi	Catfish
Carp [‡]	Jade Perch
Murray Cod	Silver Perch
Trout	

Fish have different tolerances for temperature. For optimal production of waste, as well as good eating, the preference for aquaponics is to stock different fish at different times of the year. In spring, it makes sense to stock fish that require warmer water such as barramundi or jade perch. In autumn barramundi can be harvested and it would be the ideal season to stock trout.

An alternative to rotation of fish stock is keep fish that can survive the cold as well as the hot weather, such as silver perch or jade perch. However, this practice is not without its troubles, particularly in climates where there are more extreme seasons, such as in Victoria and Tasmania in winter and Queensland and Western Australia in summer.

Each type of fish has its optimal conditions. A list of these conditions can be found in Appendix A.

[‡] Also known as common, European, German, Great and Chinese carp. In Victoria carp is considered a noxious pest. According to some sources it is illegal to hold live carp, regardless of whether it is in an aquarium or not. See: <http://www.biotechnologyonline.gov.au/enviro/carp.html>