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Rainbow trout pond

If you enjoy trout fishing and aren't in the mood to fish on a lake or river then come to Montebello Resort in Nelson County and catch some Rainbow Trout in our fee base trout ponds! Our ponds are stocked with 12 to 15 inch Rainbow Trout. The trout ponds are available to fish during store hours which are generally 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hours can vary during a particular season so please call us at 540-377-2650 to verify exact times. There is no fee to fish but you must keep what you catch. The fish are sold by the pound. Since you will be fishing on private property, a fishing license is not required. If you have any questions about fishing in the trout ponds, please contact us.If you are just passing by and decide to fish or maybe you left some fishing supplies at home... don't worry.....we sell an assortment of fishing poles both adult and children sizes, fishing line, a variety of lures, as well as live and artificial bait in our Country Store. TROUT FISHING GUIDELINES *No license required *Check in store before fishing *Keep what you catch and pay by the pound *Only use buckets provided *No Cooler/tackle boxes allowed in pond area *All fish caught must be kept..injured fish die *Please be courteous of your fellow fisherman *Pond open during store hours only *Rinse and bag your fish whole to be weighed in store. *No fish cleaning allowed at rise sink *Good luck and happy fishing!HELPFUL TIPS Use size 6 or 8 hooks, a bobber, and a good 3-4 feet of lead line. Trout will bite on a variety of bait: meal worms, night crawlers, power bait, salmon eggs, lures, corn, cheese, etc. You may get several nibbles before actually getting a bite. Once you are certain you've got a bite, firmly and quickly flick the rod at your wrist to hook the fish; be sure not to jerk too hard or you will lose the fish! When pulling the fish ashore, be sure to get some distance between yourself and the water's edge; often times the fish will get off the hook and back into the water if you are too close to the water's edge. The fish will remain active if you keep some water in the bucket but expect to be splashed! HOW TO HANDLE FRESH CAUGHT TROUTThe last thing you want to do is bring home spoils of battle that are, well, spoiled. But that's precisely what far too many anglers do. Anglers have certain habits in handling their just-caught fish that are really bad. That's particularly true in where anglers pursue trout. Trout are legendarily delicious, but they're also exceptionally prone to spoilage.We all love to eat trout, and catching them is fun, but there are a few things that really work against you. When you catch trout, they're aggressive. You've got to catch them when they're there, and then they're gone. So the tendency is to unhook them, and quickly get the bait back in the water. The tendency is not to take care of them. Unfortunately, trout is one of the most delicate fish that swims.The other problem with trout is that the meat is so tender; it's very susceptible to naturally occurring enzymes that deteriorate it. Enzymatic action is tough. The fish's own body enzymes actually work to break down the fish. If you've ever purchased a quarter of beef, and had it hung for two weeks, that's enzymatic action that's causing that beef to self-tenderize when it's hanging in a cooler. The same thing is happening to fish in an ice chest, but it's a lot faster. Fish has close to no connective tissue, its short grain, easy to dissolve, easy to digest. Those enzymes immediately go to work, and the biggest source of them is the guts, the intestines. People don't realize how quickly the enzymes penetrate the body wall and get into the meat. Recreational anglers can't necessarily follow suit. In the case of fee based trout ponds, the caught trout may not legally be sliced, gutted or filleted while on site. Anglers have to keep the fish whole, but they can greatly hinder the enzymatic breakdown by keeping the fish exceptionally cold. Most will purchase a bag of ice, drop it in the chest and assume it's keeping everything inside cold. The first few fish you drop on top of the bag will have one fillet that may be nice and cold. Everything above that will be cool but far from cold, and its downhill from there! PUT YOUR FISH ON ICE IMMEDIATELY AND CLEAN THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID SPOILAGE, ESPECIALLY IN HOT WEATHER!Web page Hosting By Xactec Fall in Alabama brings a welcome sigh of relief from the sweltering heat of summer. It also shepherds in the long-awaited hunting season. The degree of the cold and crispness of fall mornings depends on where in Alabama you are. Still, sitting on a deer stand, still hunting, in a ground blind or up in a tree, getting a little "cold bite" for a change is a blessing in and of itself, regardless of how successful you are. Fall also ushers in an uptick in fishing action. Cooler days mean that you can stay out on the water longer and it also means that the fish are getting friskier looking to pack on weight, so now is the time to do some rainbow trout stocking in your pond. The Great Days Outdoors Alabama Freshwater Fishing Report recently featured Norman Latona, president of Southeastern Pond Management, which specializes in helping lake and pond owners manage their aquatic resource for maximum fish development and recreational enjoyment. You can listen to that episode below. SEPond offers a wide range of services, ranging from ecosystem analysis, management programs, liming, fertilization, fish inventory and removal processes, stocking and more. ADVERTISEMENT / ADVERTISE WITH US The decreasing temperatures in the fall means that SEPond needs to hustle and make sure that forage is delivered for maximum health and productivity during the colder months. While stocking threadfin shad is a given at this time of year, intermediate size bluegill come roaring back into priority play. Bluegill and threadfin shad get the highest marks for sustainable forage fish in large part because of that reproductive capacity. "We stock a lot of forage fish at this time of the year and our priority is to get those fish in a pond before it gets too cold and maybe even get another spawn out of them," Latona said. "We stock bluegill in the spring but after around May we leave them alone and let them grow but we have a nice little window in the fall where we can handle them safely again." Latona explained that the term "intermediate bluegill" refers to a bluegill that is three to five inches in length and is a decent chunk of food for the voracious largemouth bass eating machine. ADVERTISEMENT / ADVERTISE WITH US "An intermediate bluegill is a suitable size prey for a hungry largemouth and it's large enough to do them some good," Latona said. "The really important distinction is that those size bluegills are not only good pieces of food but also sexually mature. That means that if it does get eaten it provides a lot of nutritional value and if it doesn't it provides a more long-term benefit because it is going to reproduce quickly." Latona emphasized that bluegill and threadfin shad get the highest marks for sustainable forage fish in large part because of that reproductive capacity. "Bluegill will spawn roughly every 30 days and if the water temperature stays in the high 70 and low 80-degree range they will keep spawning all the way through early fall and they are the only type of bream that has multiple spawns," He said. "Threadfin shad also have a multiple spawning capability. I've witnessed threadfin shad spawning in December and January and that amount of reproduction obviously translates into a lot of food." While SEPond stocks a number of different species, there are three that deserve special mention: crawfish, tilapia and rainbow trout. Rainbow trout in this are stocked at a size ready to catch and eat, allowing for immediate fun to be had. "We stock a lot of crawfish in the spring. They are relatively inexpensive, high in protein and bass love to eat them," Latona said. "We stock a lot of tilapia, mixed sexes and they will spawn every 18-20 days as long as the weather is warm but they don't survive cold weather." "Once the water gets down to the high to mid-40s for any period of time you will see tilapia start dying off or getting eaten simply because they start slowing down and become easy targets. The predator bass just pick them off," Latona pointed out. "With trout we get into the opposite." While rainbow trout aren't usually associated with warm water environments, Latona says that when the weather gets colder there is a demand for stocking rainbow trout to be used as a "put and take" type of fishery, just to add some variety to the lakes. "They're a lot of fun to catch, are great to eat and we stock them at a size that they're immediately catchable. In fact, we can stock them up to three, four or even five pounds apiece," Latona said. "Typically, we stock fish that are about a pound each and then we use supplemental feeders, just like we do for bluegills, through the late fall and winter." Trout possess a number of traits that make them ideally suited for use in ponds. First, they are eager and aggressive feeders and will take a wide variety of baits and lures all winter long. Once hooked, trout are great fighters, often leaping from the water in wildly acrobatic displays. A pond owner can stock and grow rainbow trout for at or less than it would cost to buy them at the grocery store. In addition, they grow quickly when fed a high protein artificial food. Trout feed conversion rates can be close to 1:1 on such a diet, meaning that each pound of feed they consume translates to nearly a pound gain in body weight. Latona said that rainbow trout that are stocked in November, preferably prior to Thanksgiving, will typically survive through April and even May, depending on the water temperature but they will die off in the summer. That is just the opposite of the life cycle of tilapia. "Normally, by the end of April and the first part of May in the Deep South, water temperatures will approach 70 degrees and the trout will struggle and you will lose them," Latona said. "The good thing about trout is that they are long and slender and you would be surprised what a five- or six-pound bass can eat when it finds a rainbow trout that is stressed out from high water temperature and hardly moving." "Some of these large bass can get a one-pound trout down their throat and they take advantage of them while they can," he added. Latona points out that while species like rainbow trout and, to a lesser extent, tilapia may not reproduce at the frequency of bluegills or threadfin shad, depending on the stocking density, a pond owner can stock and grow them for at or less than it would cost them to buy at the grocery store. "We say, particularly for tilapia, you get fish that are producing tons of food for bass all through the growing season and they are pretty easy to harvest and, if you like to eat them like I do, you are getting the best of both worlds," Latona said. "It also is not unusual for trout that started out at a pound in November, being fed, to end up being two or three pounds in April." Since rainbow trout that are stocked in warm water environments have a finite life expectancy when the water heats up, it presents an opportunity to provide some short-lived forage for fattening up bass. "We occasionally will use trout as forage when we have some smaller trout in the spring and early summer before it gets too warm for them to survive," Latona said. "We will stock them as a dietary supplement because they are super rich in protein and the bass will suck them right down." You know the phrase "shooting fish in a barrel?" Well, it's not that easy to catch rainbow trout in a stocked pond, but it's not too far away, either. It's also a great way to learn the basics of trout fishing, basics that will help you catch trout everywhere.Rainbow trout are the most popular trout to stock around the world, and chances are that they're stocked in a pond near you. They can be exciting to catch, and pretty tasty, too! So, whether you're in it for a rainbow trout dinner or just a few hours of fun, read on for how to catch one in a stocked pond.Where and When to FishWhere to FishSome people might see it as cheating, but the best place to fish is usually right near wherever the stocking truck parked. If the conditions are right, the trout won't stray too far from where they were put into the water. Look for boat ramps or other spots that provide easy access to the water for a large truck. Once they've had some time to settle in, trout will tend towards certain places in the pond:Trout are often found in the well-oxygenated water below a weir or dam.Deeper parts provide the cool water rainbow trout prefer.Overhanging trees provide shelter from the sun and predators, as well as the possibility of a meal from falling worms and insects. Fallen trees, docks, and other underwater structures also offer protection and a great place to find smaller fish to eat.The mouths of streams provide highly oxygenated, cooler water and the possibility for floating morsels.Dams, weirs, and fountains also bring highly oxygenated water into the pond.Get There Early, Part 1Once you know that the pond has been stocked with rainbow trout, your best chance to catch one is sooner rather than later. Part of the reason for this is other anglers. There's nothing that gets people running to a pond quite like the stocking truck, and half the fish in the pond might be gone after a few days. Better to get there earlier to give yourself the best chance. It also takes the trout a while to get adjusted to their new surroundings, which gives you an advantage. In the hatchery, trout are used to being in close quarters with each other. After stocking, they'll stick together for anywhere from a few days to a week before slowly spreading out around the pond. If you get there early enough, once you've seen one trout rise, you're probably looking at a lot more in that spot.Newly stocked rainbow trout still see this as foodNewly stocked trout also take a while to learn to eat wild food in their pond. When they're at the hatchery, they're fed pellets on a schedule. They may never have eaten a worm or fly. That doesn't mean that they'll reject those things; they've got instincts that tell them what's food. But it does mean that a newly stocked rainbow trout will be cruising the pond for something that looks and smells awfully like the PowerBait you'll use to catch them.Get There Early, Part 2The hours around dawn are the best time to catch troutAs far as time of day, earlier is also better. Trout are most actively feeding in the hours surrounding dawn. Trout don't like the bright sun, and the water is cooler in the morning. Getting there within a couple hours of dawn is your best bet. After that, the fishing will probably get slower towards the middle of the day. A cloudy day will help a bit, as the trout don't have to contend with the heat and light of the sun. As the day winds down and it starts to cool off again, trout will start feeding, so the evenings can be productive as well.What You'll NeedA light or ultralight spinning rod/reel combo: If you're just starting out, Ugly Stik is one of the best brands for good combos on a budget. Their GX2 and Elite lines both offer great quality and value. While you can find cheaper combos out there, it pays to get something decent to start out with. You don't want to be struggling with bad gear all day! Bait: While worms and other live baits work, PowerBait is the most effective bait for stocked rainbow trout. Which type and colors you get is up to you, but get a few different kinds. Chartreuse, pink, and rainbow are popular color choices. Power Eggs are great to start out with since they're less messy than the dough and will stay on the hook longer.Line: Trout have great eyesight, so get lighter line. 4 lb test is usually strong enough for stocked trout. Treble hooks (size 12-16)Barrel swivels (size 12 or 14)Egg sinkers (1/4oz.)Brightly-colored bobbersRod holderAdditionally, you might want to bring a few lures with you. Many states allow you to have two or more lines in the water at once. Putting bait on one and trying out a lure on the other is a great way to hedge your bets and catch more trout. Check your local regulations for specifics. Spoons and spinners are the most popular types to use in a pond. We'll discuss the best trout lures for stocked ponds later down.A Simple PowerBait RigIf it's your first time trying to catch rainbow trout in a stocked pond, use this rig. It is dead simple and has caught thousands, possibly millions, of trout for many anglers. The key is in floating the PowerBait at just the right depth for trout to see and smell it. Once they do, you've got them. Here's how to do it:A rainbow trout caught using this simple rigCut a length of line about 24" long.Tie on a treble hook to one end with a Palomar knot.Tie a barrel swivel onto the other end, again with a Palomar knot.Thread a sinker onto your main line (the one already on your rod).Tie the other end of the barrel swivel to your main line with (you guessed it!) a Palomar knot.Put the Powerbait on the hook. Use enough to cover the hook completely, but don't make too big a clump. If you're using eggs, simply put one on each hook.Cast it out towards the middle of the pond. If you're seeing trout rises, make sure to aim squarely at them.Wait about 10 seconds, then slowly take in some of the slack from the line. Set your rod in the rod holder, preferably as horizontal as you can get it.Hook a bobber onto the line on your rod between two of the guides. Make sure it hangs about a foot or so below the rod, and take in slack if it touches the ground.The bobber makes it easy to see when a trout bites your bait. When you see it moving wildly up or down, you've got something. Grab the rod and give it a quick jerk to help set the hook. Don't jerk it too hard or you risk ripping the bait out of the trout's mouth. Start reeling in, and you should feel something moving on the end of your line. Congratulations, you've got dinner!Speaking of which, this rig is more suitable for keeping your trout than catch and release. Trout are much more likely to swallow the hook, which raises the mortality rate of released fish significantly. The good news is that stocked trout are there to be taken. This is especially true in ponds, which often get too warm for trout to survive through the summer. So don't feel bad about taking yours home!Using LuresPowerBait is a tried-and-true method for catching stocked trout, but it's always good to have some back-ups. If the trout aren't biting, or you want to try something different, tying on a lure is a great option. Since the trout in a stocked pond haven't gotten used to natural food yet, lures designed to look like specific food animals may not work as well. But spoons and spinners, which rely on more instinctual reactions from trout, work great. Get something in the 1/12-1/4 oz. range to catch stocked rainbow trout in a pond.SpoonsSpoons work by mimicking the motion of a wounded fish in the water, an easy meal for a trout. Even though stocked trout won't necessarily know what a wounded fish looks like, their instincts will tell them to strike. When you cast your spoon out, let it sink for a couple seconds before retrieving it. Try varying your retrieval speed and add in some pauses, jerks, and other irregularities. This will really get their attention!The Acme Kastmaster is one of the most popular trout lures, and for good reason. It has a motion and flash that immediately grabs trout's attention. Plus, it'll get you some nice casting distance, even in the wind. The only issue is that it's almost as much a weed magnet as a trout magnet. Since trout ponds tend to be weedy, a weedless spoon like the Johnson Silver Minnow is a great lure to have. It's got great motion in the water, and won't slow you down by snagging every time you cast. SpinnersSpinners have a spinning blade that flashes and sends vibrations through the water. Again, this hits even stocked trout on an instinctual level. The Mepps Aglia is a classic spinner that will cast well and run deep. This is key, because once the water starts warming up in the pond, the trout will start dropping down deeper. Smaller sizes will still catch some fairly large trout, and are perfect for the usual 10-14" rainbow you'll find in a stocked pond.The Joe's Flies Short Striker is a fly and spinner in one. It also stays nice and deep when you're retrieving it, great for getting down to where trout are hiding. You can vary the speed of your retrieval a lot with these and still get good movement on the spinning blade. Pick up a pack and try out a bunch of different colors to see what works best.ConclusionTrying to catch a rainbow trout in a stocked pond is one of the most fun ways to get started fishing. It's also a great way to spend an afternoon for any angler of any level. But don't take my word for it. Now that you're done reading about it, go do it!

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