

*Ctenopharyngodon idella*

# Diploid Grass Carp

Other common names: grass carp



Cyprinidae, the carp family



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Large elongated fish with a round abdomen and flat head
- Short snout with small eyes
- Dorsal and anal fins are relatively short; anal fin protrudes behind posterior edge of dorsal fin
- Moderate to large sized scales; scales on back and sides have dark edges
- Gray on dorsal surface to greenish-yellow on sides with a yellow to white underbelly

## Background

- Native to China; introduced for aquaculture and aquatic weed control
- Heavy stocking densities of carp as a biocontrol agent could cause nutrient overload; excess fish waste can disrupt base chain function
- Overfeeding on aquatic vegetation can decrease waterfowl habitat
- Highly competitive, adaptable, and extremely tolerant

Photo Credit:

5430855 - Pam Fuller, USGS, Bugwood.org

5371472 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Bugwood.org

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5371496 - Eric Engbretson, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bugwood.org