

KOI & GOLDFISH

Cyprinus rubrofuscus & Carassius auratus

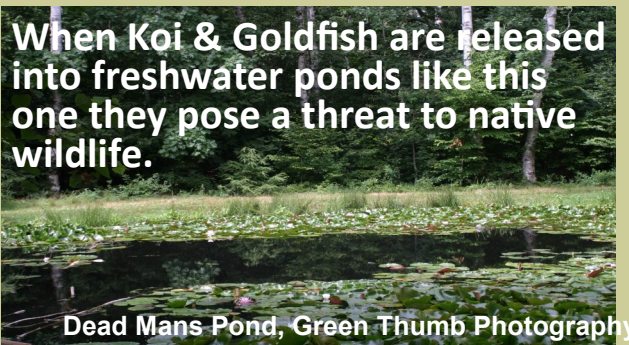


An *invasive species* is an organism that causes ecological & economic harm in an environment where its been introduced.



Koi are known as 'keystone modifiers' or 'ecosystem engineers' which means they can significantly change the habitat in which they live. These fish stir up mud and other organic matter. They have reduced water quality and degraded aquatic habitats on every continent they have been introduced.

When Koi & Goldfish are released into freshwater ponds like this one they pose a threat to native wildlife.



When Koi and Goldfish are released into freshwater they can establish and become invasive. They cause both economic and environmental damage by:

- 1) Importing disease and parasites which spread to native wildlife
- 2) Feeding on native fish eggs, young fish, amphibians and plants. Amphibians in small, previously fishless ponds are at risk
- 3) Increasing the risk of toxic algal blooms by altering water quality

You should never dump aquarium fish, pond water, or plants—dead or alive—into waterways. It is inhumane to the fish.

WHAT SHOULD I DO INSTEAD?

- Contact the retailer where you purchased and see if return is possible
- Contact your local humane society
- See if another pet owner will take the pet
- Consider humane euthanasia by a veterinarian

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The release of non-native fish can significantly impact the environment and economic success of recreational fisheries. Introduced aquarium fish like the Koi and Goldfish can become established and invasive in local waters. Koi have been found in Tignish and the Morell River in PEI. This increases competition for our native wildlife and can threaten the success of fish like the **Brook Trout** and **Atlantic Salmon**.



Moving freshwater fish is a regulated process which ensures environmental impacts are limited. **Releasing live fish without a permit is an offense under the Fisheries Act.**

To prevent the spread of unwanted invasive species, ensure that you:

**DON'T
LET IT
LOOSE**

never release animals or plants into bodies of water in which they weren't originally caught

Take action in reporting invasive species. To report a sighting or for more information please contact PEI Invasive Species Council at peiinvasives@gmail.com or go to **peiinvasives.com**