



What is a non-native fish?

A non-native fish is a species from another country. Many aquarium fish are non-native species that have been imported to Australia. Whilst not a problem when properly contained in an aquarium, these species have the potential to become pests if allowed to escape to our waterways.

What problems can non-native fish cause?

If released into natural waterways, non-native fish can:

- Compete with native fish for food and space
- Dominate waterways by reproducing in large numbers and surviving in adverse and disturbed habitats
- Alter and disturb natural habitats
- Feed on native species of fish, insects, and plants
- Introduce diseases and parasites

Non-native fish found in NT waterways

Guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*), platies (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) and swordtails (*Xiphophorus helleri*) are all popular non native aquarium fish that originate from Central and South America and have now been found in NT waterways. Whilst swordtails are not known to

have established permanent populations in NT waters, guppies and platies have. This is most likely as a result of people illegally dumping unwanted aquarium fish or fish escaping from overflowing ponds during heavy wet season rains.

You can help by...

- Not dumping unwanted aquarium fish in any waterway. Either dispose of the fish humanely or check whether a local pet shop will take it.
- Preventing your outdoor ponds from overflowing during wet season rains.
- Using attractive and colourful native fish and plants in home aquaria and ponds. Native fish such as blue-eyes, rainbowfish, glassfish and gudgeons are also effective at controlling mosquito larvae populations.
- Keeping an eye out for new species in your area. If you think you've spotted a pest, take a photo and catch a sample if possible and call Aquatic Biosecurity on **0413 381 094** or email aquaticbiosecurity@nt.gov.au
- For more information visit us at www.fisheries.nt.gov.au



Guppy (*Poecilia reticulata*)



Platy (*Xiphophorus maculatus*)



Swordtail (*Xiphophorus helleri*)



Northern
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Factsheet

Native fish for your aquarium

There are a wide variety of attractive and interesting native species of fish to use in your aquaria and ponds. Many of these fish will also help control mosquitoes by feeding on their larvae. Some popular native NT aquarium fish include:



Empire gudgeon (*Hypseleotris compressa*)



Spotted blue-eye (*Pseudomugil gertrudae*)



Threadfin rainbowfish (*Iriatherina werneri*)



Banded rainbowfish (*Melanotaenia trifasciata*)



Sailfin glassfish (*Ambassis agrammus*)



Hyrtl's catfish (*Neosilurus hyrtlji*)



Northern trout gudgeon (*Mogurnda mogurnda*)



Sooty grunter (*Hephaestus fuliginosus*)