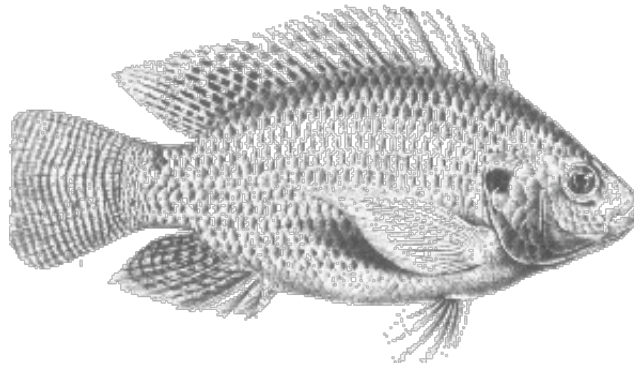




ILLINOIS - INDIANA

Sea Grant Tip Sheet Series

AS-494



### Tilapia

*Oreochromis niloticus*,  
Drawing from Trewavas, 1983

<b>Common name:</b>	Tilapia
<b>Scientific name:</b>	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> , <i>O. aurea</i> , <i>O. mossambicus</i> , <i>O. hornorum</i>
<b>Production potential:</b>	Easy except tilapia grow slowly at temperatures lower than 70 F and die when temperatures drop into the 50 F range
<b>Marketing potential:</b>	Potential: High Size: 1.25-2.0 lb Market: Food
<b>Temperature requirements:</b>	Growing: 80-87 F Spawning: Greater than 72 Lethal: 55 F
<b>Feed requirements:</b>	Protein: 25-30% Fat: 6-8%
<b>Spawning requirements:</b>	Maternal mouthbrooders, spawn twice a month, 2,500 eggs/lb body weight, eggs hatch in 5 to 7 days. All male hybrids can be produced by crossing female <i>O. niloticus</i> and male <i>O. aurea</i> . Or by crossing female <i>O. niloticus</i> and male <i>O. hornorum</i> . Stocking ratios for fingerling production is three females to each male.
<b>Most common production systems:</b>	For food fish estimate at 1500-3,000 lbs. per acre. For food fish production in cages stock 8-15 lbs. per cubic food. Stocking densities in recycle systems depends on the quality of the filtration used. However at harvest a goal of from 0.5-1.5 lbs pounds per gallon is desired.

<http://aquanic.org/publicat/state/il-in/as-494.htm>

