

Asian Carps ID

There are **four species** of Asian carps that are invasive to North America: Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, Black Carp and Grass Carp. Although Asian carps are not established in Canadian waters, please be on the look-out for them! All four species have a **short dorsal fin and no barbels** (whisker-like appendages at the corners of their mouths).

Silver Carp:

- Deep-bodied, wide fish with an upturned lower jaw
- Large, broad scaleless head (about 1/3 of body size) with a toothless mouth located in the middle of the head pointing forward

Bighead Carp:

- Deep-bodied, wide fish
- Large, scaleless head with a with a toothless mouth located in the middle of the head pointing forward

Black Carp:

- Long, narrow body with a blunt, scaleless head
- Small toothless mouth located in the middle of the head pointing forward with a pointed snout
- Large scales on body with a cross-hatched appearance

Grass Carp:

- Slender, oblong shaped body with a rounded belly
- Wide, scaleless head with a toothless mouth
- Mouth located in the middle of the head pointing forward with a very short snout
- Large scales on body with a cross-hatched appearance









Common Carp

Although they are also invasive, Common Carp arrived in North America over 100 years ago and have since established in some regions of Ontario.

- Deep-bodied and vary in colour from silver to olive-green with brass or grey on the back and sides. The belly is yellowish and lower fins are reddish orange.
- Two identifying features that Common Carp have and that differentiates them from Grass Carp (a species it is commonly confused with) are the presence of whisker-like appendages called barbels near the corners



of its mouth and a long dorsal fin that runs down the back half of their body.

What can you do?

- Learn to ID Asian carps and their common look-alike species, like Common Carp
- If you believe you've seen an Asian carp or another invasive species, please contact the toll-free Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or visit https://www.eddmaps.org/ontario/ to report a sighting.
- Never buy or keep live Asian carps
- Do not introduce live fish into Ontario lakes or rivers.
- If you have any information about the illegal importing, distribution, or sale of live Asian carps, report it immediately to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667.
- Visit <u>https://www.asiancarp.ca/</u> for resources and information