

Koi carp

Cyprinus carpio

Description

Colour: Koi carp are highly varied in colour, with irregular blotching of orange, red, black, gold or pearly white.

Size: Koi grow to a length of 750 mm and can weigh up to 10 kg.

Head: There are two pairs of barbels (feelers) at the base of the mouth.

Origin

Thought to be native to Asia originally.

Thought to have been introduced accidentally or deliberately into New Zealand in the 1960s.

Where are koi carp found?

Koi carp are generally found in slow or still freshwater environments. They are common throughout the lower Waikato River system, and have been introduced to a number of ponds throughout the length of the North Island.

How do koi carp spread?

Koi may move to connected waterways particularly during flood events.

People may accidentally or deliberately spread fish to other waterways or private ponds.



Koi carp (Cyprinus carpio)



Why are koi carp a problem?

Koi are opportunistic omnivores that eat a variety of food including plants, insect larvae and other fish. They feed like vacuum cleaners sucking up everything and discarding unwanted material, this causes waterways to become murky by stirring up the bottom sediment causing habitat loss for other plants and animals.

Status as a pest animal in the Bay of Plenty

Eradication/Exclusion Pest Animal (refer to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan).

Rules require land occupiers to destroy all koi carp in any pond or waterway (eradication will be led and funded by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and/or Department of Conservation).

It is an offence under sections 52 and 53 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to sell, offer for sale, display, release, move or breed koi carp in the Bay of Plenty region. Serious penalties are associated with distributing koi carp in waterways.

How do I get rid of koi carp?

Removal of fish from waterways is difficult and requires expert advice. For advice, or to confirm the identity of a fish, call:

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council on 0800 884 880 or email info@boprc.govt.nz
- Your local Department of Conservation office.

For more information contact a Bay of Plenty Regional Council Land Management Officer.

