

# WILDLIFE TRENDS

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## How Soon is Now? Or Are We There Yet?

By *Kedric Nutt*



*A truly exceptional bass – not yet 3 years old and 9 3/4 pounds*

As curious as it sounds, it seems like pond owners always want to know how quickly their new (or renovated) pond will begin to produce big bass. As in, “How many years will it be before I catch a fill in the blank pound bass out of my new pond?”. And, of course, my answer must always be an unsatisfactory “Well, that all depends”. I will discuss in this article what we have found, over the years, to be the major factors determining how fast a new stock of fish produces truly big bass.

First, we have to understand some basics of largemouth bass biology. Bass biology greatly affects their growth rates and how soon they can reach large or trophy size. In the largemouth bass species, the females grow larger. They grow faster and generally live longer than males of the species. Female bass, contrary to many other animal species, have an easier life than males. Their job is to eat, grow and lay eggs. Females expend no energy and contribute no help to building the spawning nest, defending the eggs and defending the newly hatched fry. In the spawning season, the female simply comes into the nest, spawns her eggs and then leaves. This certainly contributes to the females living longer and growing faster.

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