



## Freshwater Shrimp Culture in Ohio

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Freshwater shrimp, Macrobrachium rosenbergii, culture has recently become increasingly popular in many temperate regions in the United States. The freshwater shrimp, or more properly freshwater prawn, is a member of a large group of freshwater crustaceans found in many parts of the world. Most aquaculture efforts have concentrated on the Giant Malaysian Prawn that is a native of southern Asia.

Research on temperate culture of freshwater shrimp in the U.S. was initiated at Kentucky State University in 1990 and the results have led to the establishment of several freshwater shrimp operations in Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana. During this time of development in other states, freshwater shrimp were not cultured in Ohio because the Ohio Division of Natural Resources (ODNR) restricted their culture. In 2000, the Ohio Aquaculture Association (OAA) worked with the ODNR to reevaluate the species and it was subsequently moved to the unrestricted aquaculture species list. In 2001, several producers in Ohio raised the first crops of freshwater shrimp.

Freshwater shrimp are believed to have great potential for diversification of Ohio farms. They have a short growing season (June 1<sup>st</sup>-September 15<sup>th</sup>) that fits in well with other farm activities, require little labor (20 minutes/day feeding and one long harvest day), and occupy underutilized existing water resources. Research is currently underway in Southern Ohio to evaluate its potential as a cash-crop for Ohio farmers.

If you would like more information on the culture of this species, please check out the following website links. Factsheets are also available from your county agent.

Freshwater Prawns: Biology and Life History

[http://aquanic.org/publicat/usda\\_rac/efs/srac/483fs.pdf](http://aquanic.org/publicat/usda_rac/efs/srac/483fs.pdf)

Freshwater Prawns: Pond Production and Growout

[http://aquanic.org/publicat/usda\\_rac/efs/srac/484fs.pdf](http://aquanic.org/publicat/usda_rac/efs/srac/484fs.pdf)

Kentucky State University Aquaculture Program: Freshwater Shrimp Video and Manual

<http://www.ksuaquaculture.org/index.htm>