



RUDD

Scardinius erythrophthalmus
Cyprinidae, the carp family

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- The Rudd inhabits lakes, rivers, streams, thermal areas, and tidal ponds
- They have been identified as a potential pest in many areas.
- They are omnivorous and may shift to eating plants, unlike most native fish.
- Their tolerance for a large variety of habitats contributes to their wide distribution.

Diagnostic Characteristics

- The Rudd is a deep-bodied fish with a forked tail.
- The dorsal side is golden-olive fading to silvery-olive along the sides.
- The fins are bright reddish-orange to reddish-brown.
- The lower lip is distinct and upturned.
- The eyes are pink to gold.
- Their pharyngeal teeth are strongly serrated.
- They grow up to 18 inches and may weigh up to 4.5 pounds.

Introduction and Movement

- The Rudd is native to Europe and Central Asia.
- It was first introduced to the United States in the late 1800s to early 1900s via the bait industry.
- It became established in New York in the St. Lawrence River in 1917.
- A second period of introduction occurred in the late 1960s or early 1970s, again via the bait industry.
- The Rudd may be introduced to new areas via use as bait, or it may be released to be used for sport.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, ensure that all watercraft, wading gear, and other water related equipment are clean, drained, and dry between use in each waterbody.
- Use of live bait is prohibited in Idaho.
- Never release any animal or plant into the wild.
- Can escape from aquaculture facilities or water gardens in areas prone to flooding.
- Always Remember:

CLEAN → DRAIN → DRY

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/65689>.



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