

# Goldfish

## *Carassius auratus*

Introduced

Undesirable

*Photo: Courtesy of Mike Lake*

Goldfish were introduced in 1871 and are the most widespread exotic fish in the Waikato River. Goldfish can tolerate very poor conditions but their effect on New Zealand's aquatic environment is largely unknown. This species' reproduction habits are complex and can sometime hybridise with closely related species such as koi carp (*Cyprinus carpio*). Wild goldfish are generally an olive to bronze colour but the hybrids can be golden or orange colours. An average sized goldfish found in the Waikato is 160mm.

