



## PLATIES

**CHARACTERISTICS:** Platies are part of a popular aquarium fish species called livebearers. Instead of laying eggs, they give birth to their offspring. Most livebearers are shoaling fish and should be kept in groups. The majority of the group should be female to keep males from becoming too aggressive.

**TEMPERATURE:** These fish can thrive in a wide range of temperatures from low 70F to mid 80F. Use aquarium heaters to maintain tank temperatures to proper water climate, which contributes to the health of the fish, reduces stress levels, and makes them less susceptible to oxygen shortages. Make sure the fish's water temperature requirements are compatible with those of its tank mates.

**SUBSTRATE:** Gravel, rock or wood are used to cover the floor of the aquarium tank. In addition to enhancing the appearance of the tank, substrates can act as a bed for biological filtration systems, anchor for aquatic plants, and provide a "burrowing" place for some fish species. Do not use coral sand, coral shells, or oolite in freshwater tanks. Clean substrate material and other tank decorations thoroughly in tap water (no soap) until water "runs clear" before adding it to the tank.

**LIGHT:** Fish don't do well when exposed to natural light in temperate regions where the length of a day varies. It is best to duplicate a fish's tropical environment by providing 12 hours of controlled lighting daily. A good rule of thumb is to provide 2 watts of lamp power for every gallon of tank water.

**DECORATIONS:** These fish do not require any specific ornaments in their environment.

**WATER QUALITY:** A pH value between 7.0-8.0 is best in medium to hard water. Replacement of 20-25% of water is recommended every month in a freshwater tank. Make sure water being added to the tank is the same pH as the tank water, since imbalance can affect the health of the fish. Algae occur naturally in all aquatic ecosystems, but excessive algae growth can give an aquarium an unattractive appearance and upset water quality.

**DIET:** Packaged foods are the way to ensure fish receive a proper balanced diet. Foods come in different forms to satisfy different kinds of eaters. As a rule, fish should never be fed more food than they can consume in five minutes. Over-feeding fish is one of the most common mistakes and a major contributor to tank problems.

### **RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES**

- Proper size aquarium
- Heater / Thermometer / Thermostat
- Filter / Pump
- Lights
- Chemicals
- Food
- Substrate
- Decorations

### **TROPICAL FISH REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE**

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It is not intended as a complete guide to captive husbandry.