



Meet Victoria's Underwater Bulldozer

Carp might be tough, adaptable and great fun to catch, but they can also cause big problems for our waterways. As they feed, they dig and root along the lake and river bed, stirring up sediment and uprooting aquatic plants.

This constant disturbance can turn clear, healthy water into a murky mess, making it harder for native fish and other wildlife to survive.

Key impacts



Stir up sediment

Turning clear water cloudy and reducing the light that plants need.



Destroy aquatic plants

Uprooting native plants that provide food, shelter and breeding habitat.



Disrupt habitats

Changing the structure of the lake or river bed.



Compete with native species

Making it harder for native fish and other wildlife to thrive.

How carp change our waterways

Carp feed by sucking up sediment from the bottom, searching for food. In the process, they create a chain reaction of changes that can have long-lasting effects on the health of our rivers, lakes and wetlands.



1

They dig and root

Carp use their powerful mouths to suck up sediment, filtering out food like invertebrates, plant material and tiny organisms. This stirs up mud and loosens the lake or river bed.



2

They destroy plants

As they feed, carp uproot native aquatic plants that provide food, shelter and breeding areas for native fish and other wildlife.



3

They make the water murky

The stirred up sediment stays suspended in the water, reducing light and making it harder for aquatic plants to grow. This can lead to a loss of habitat and a decline in native species.

The bigger picture

When carp disturb the bottom and remove aquatic plants, it can set off a chain reaction. Water becomes cloudier, plants struggle to grow, oxygen levels can drop and native fish and other wildlife lose the places they need to feed, hide and breed. Over time, this can lead to less biodiversity and less healthy waterways.

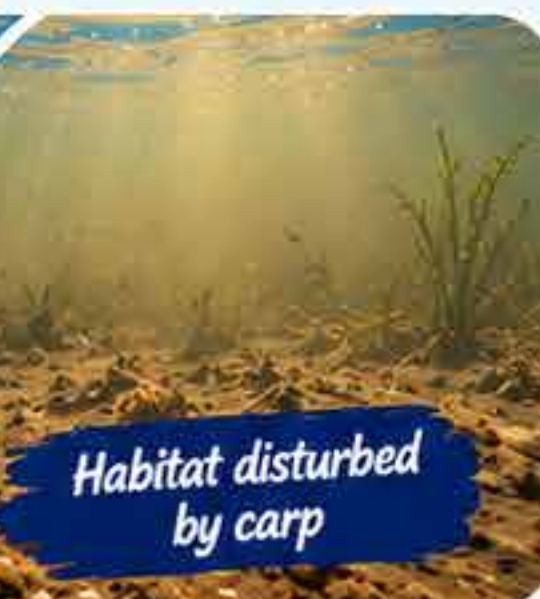


Did you know?

A single carp can stir up large areas of sediment in a day, and when many carp are present, the impact can be huge!



Healthy habitat



Habitat disturbed by carp

