Freshwater Puffers

Why Keep Them? Puffers are interesting fish that often do best when keep in a specialized aquarium. Most are difficult to fit into a community tank so a single species tank usually works best. The Dwarf Pea Puffer can be kept in a tank to themselves as small as 5 gallon.

Green Spotted Puffer (Tetraodon nigroviridis) (Grows to 6’) Housing: Provide an aquarium of 10 gallon or more. Provide standard filtration. Maintain a temperature of 70-80 degrees. You can use any aquarium gravel, or a marine based aragonite gravel. Decorate with plastic plants. If you use live plants you may try some anubias, java fern, or moss balls. Tank Mates: These puffers are aggressive and are ideal candidates for "species only" tank. They can even be aggressive toward their own kind in the form of nipped fins. They seem to be less aggressive when young and more aggressive as adults. If you have a big enough tank and want to try some other fish choose: Bumble bee gobies, or larger mollies. Water Conditions. These fish live in brackish water and should have some salt in the water. We recommend you use Instant Ocean Sea Salt at about 1 tablespoon per gallon. The hydrometer should read 1.005 to 1.015. Feeding: Feed a variety of meaty foods. Bloodworms, Mysis shrimp, frozen squid, krill, and freeze dried shrimp are good choices. They like to eat snails. Crunching on some snails periodically will help them keep their teeth properly trimmed. They also enjoy live ghost shrimp. Adults will even eat fiddler crabs. Behavior: They will spend a lot of time near the bottom of the tank. They will quickly come to the surface when you feed them.

Figure Eight Puffer (Tetraodon biocellatus) (Grows to 3.5”) Same care as Green Spotted Puffer

Dwarf Pea Puffer (Grows to 1.5”) (Tank size- 6 gal and up.) Our best selling puffer. One of the smallest puffers, but still is can be aggressive. Does not need salt in the water like other puffers. Best conditions are a small planted tank with slow moving water. Some small live snails are good food supplement. Feed mysis shrimp and bloodworms. Best kept in single species small tank with filtration. Keep one per 3 gallons. (Carinotetraodon travancoricus)

Abei Puffer (Grows to 4”) A freshwater puffer native to China. They are aggressive and territorial (Tetraodon abei). Best kept in a single species tank.

Amazon Puffer (Assel Puffer) (Grows to -5”)(Temp- 76-82) A true freshwater puffer. Will tolerate brackish water, but does not require salt in water. Interesting fish with lots of personality. They can be fin nippers, but they are more peaceful than most other puffers. Ideal setup is in a planted aquarium. Feed plankton, krill, bloodworms, frozen mysis shrimp, frozen squid. adults can eat snails and ghost shrimp. Adults can be aggressive toward each other. (Colomesus assellus) Also called Parrot puffer.

Fugu Puffer: (Grows to 6”) Very aggressive, Best kept in a small tank (10-30 gallons) by themselves. Feed krill, plankton, snails, ghost shrimp. A pufferfish from japan. Poisonous to eat. Fugu is the Japanese name for Pufferfish. Tank size- 40 gal and up (Tetraodon ocellatus)

Fahaka Puffer (Grows to- 16”)(Temp- 75-80) Very aggressive puffer will bite at anything especially as it grows. Prefers a Ph above 7.4 with at least 2 tablespoons of salt per 5 gallons of water. Feed frozen Krill and Silversides, will eat live foods such as ghost shrimp. larger ones will eat crayfish Requires large tank (Tetraodon lineatus)

Tankmates: Bumblebee gobies seem to be suitable tank mates for green spotted and figure eight puffers.