



Alternative Oyster Culture Obtaining Seed & Larvae



OYSTERS GROWN 'OFF BOTTOM' ARE TYPICALLY SINGLE SEED OYSTERS purchased from a hatchery, grown in hanging baskets or floating cages instead of directly on reefs or other water bottoms. Once you have obtained all necessary permitting, and you are ready to move forward with setting up your site, buying seed and larvae is the next step. Some restrictions may apply.



OUT OF STATE HATCHERY IMPORTATION PROCESS

To bring oyster larvae from outside of Louisiana, you must submit a no-fee importation application to LDWF. Permits are issued on a case-by-case basis and submission does not guarantee permit approval. Allow three weeks for processing. Applicants will be notified in writing of Department's decision.

Full details about LDWF Oyster Import application, and import and transport restrictions can be found at: <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/oyster-importation>.

TRANSPORTATION

Seed and larvae can be safely transported out of water, provided they are kept damp and cool, out of the sun. Larvae wrapped in damp paper towels and can be placed in an ordinary ice chest. Seed can be put in breathable sacks; they too can be placed in a cooler with ice, though there should be NO direct contact with ice. LSG recommends a layer of ice, then a layer of burlap, with oysters on top.

When transporting oysters from out of state into Louisiana, import permit holders are required to provide 48-hour notice to LDWF before each permitted import event. A copy of import permit and all pertaining paperwork must accompany oysters during shipment and/or transport and remain with oysters through to the final destination and placement into LA waters.

A list of Gulf-wide seed suppliers, compiled by Alabama Extension, can be found online at

https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/ANR-2584_ShellfishSeedSuppliersGulfOfMexico2024_052124L.pdf



PURCHASING AND IMPORTING OYSTER LARVAE AND SEED

Seed and larvae may be purchased from shellfish suppliers across the Gulf.

LOUISIANA HATCHERY INFORMATION

In state private hatcheries selling oyster product is a growing and changing landscape. A full list of hatcheries may be found online or by contacting your SeaGrant extension agent. To order product from the LDWF Michael C. Voisin Hatchery in Grand Isle, the steps are as follows:

- Complete and submit an online oyster larvae order form.
 - Select oyster larvae or seed (very limited). There is an order limit per person; orders are filled on availability, first come/first served, with Louisiana residents getting priority, to ensure the needs of all local growers are met.
 - Select pick-up or delivery (fee for shipping).
 - Select diploid or triploid oysters.
- LDWF will first contact you by phone about one to two weeks before your order is ready, then send an official email request for payment.



To learn more about stocking seed in containers, including counting larvae and seed, review the LSG manual online: <https://www.lafisheriesforward.org/oysters-using-remote-setting/>

More information can be found at <https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/alternative-oyster-culture> or by contacting the LDWF by phone at (504) 765-0175 or by email at dkinsey@wlf.la.gov or by contacting the LDWF by phone at (225) 765-0175 or by email at dkinsey@wlf.la.gov