

Shubunkin

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff



The Shubunkin, a type of single-tailed goldfish, is originally from China and over the years has been distributed worldwide. The Shubunkin differs from the wild carp in that it lacks the barbells on the mouth area, the markings at the base of the scales, and the size. The Shubunkin is a hardy fish and has a mottled pattern of white, black, and orange. It may also be called a Speckled or Harlequin Goldfish.

The ideal setup for the Shubunkin is a pond of at least 180 gallons with a gravel substrate, rocks, and hearty plants. This fish will grow in proportion to its surroundings. It likes to eat the roots of plants and will dig to get to them, so provide large rocks around the base of the plants to protect them. Adequate [filtration](#) should be provided in order to maintain proper water conditions.

The male can be differentiated from the female by the concave anal section and, sometimes, breeding spots on the head. Spawning may result in as many as 1,000 eggs and the fry emerge in about six days. Feed the fry small, live foods, and their color will emerge in about eight months.

The Shubunkin requires a quality [pellet](#) or [flake food](#) that does not exceed 30% protein.

Interesting Facts:

Origin:	China.
Size:	Up to 14 inches
Diet:	Omnivorous.
Pond Conditions:	A minimum of 2 feet deep; 33-90° F, pH 6.8-7.2.
Min. Pond Capacity:	180 gallons.
Light:	Natural.
Temperament:	Peaceful.
Swimming Level:	All Levels.
Care Level:	Easy.
Reproduction:	Egg-layers.