Today on Gardening in a Minute: gambusia.

Gambusia are excellent additions to your backyard pond. They are plain little fish that are excellent at controlling mosquitos.

Gambusia are small and stout, dull olive grey, with a rounded tail and an upturned mouth adapted for feeding at the water's surface.

These fish can be found in virtually every freshwater habitat in the Eastern and Southern United States.

Gambusia are often called mosquitofish or pot-gut minnows. They are viviparous which means they give birth to live young rather than lay eggs.

They feed readily on larval and pupal stages of mosquitos and have been stocked virtually world-wide for mosquito control.

They are remarkably hardy, surviving in waters of very low oxygen, high salinities, and high temperatures.

If you have a pond, add mosquitofish to make summertime more comfortable.

For more information about gambusia, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.