

# Daphnia

## A CAROLINA™ CareSheet

### Immediate Care and Handling

When your daphnia arrive, immediately open the shipping container and inspect the shipping jar. Remove the jar from the container and unscrew its lid, allowing it to rest on top of the jar. Do not aerate the culture with a pipette or any other device. Keep the jar in a cool area, around 21° C (69° F), and out of direct sunlight. Use the daphnia as soon as possible. Add daphnia to an aquarium or holding tank by gently submerging the open jar and “pouring” them underwater.

### Culturing

For culturing daphnia, we recommend one of our culture kits. The kits conveniently include the materials and instructions you will need. However, if you already have a culture of daphnia that you want to maintain, there are several options for feeding it. We recommend our Daphnia Food (item #142316). If you can provide it, a continuous source of “green water,” i.e., algae-rich water, is a good food source. Daphnia also feed on bacteria and yeast.

To prepare a yeast suspension, add springwater to a clean 2-liter plastic bottle and stir in enough baker's yeast to make the water milky. Store the suspension in a refrigerator and always agitate before use to resuspend the yeast. Add a few drops of this food to your culture each day. An alternative is to crush 3 to 4 grains of dry baker's yeast on clean paper and dust this on the culture water's surface. Avoid overfeeding. Hard-boiled egg yolk or powdered egg yolk can be used in the same amounts as yeast to encourage bacterial growth. **Note:** *If bacteria overgrow, they can kill the daphnia.*

Do not allow the culture water to become cloudy. Each week draw off and discard about ¼ of the water and replace it with fresh springwater. Do not use city tap water because daphnia are extremely sensitive to the metal ions it contains. In fact, daphnia are so sensitive to metal contaminants that they are used to monitor the water quality of streams and lakes. Glass-distilled water or deionized water can be used if needed minerals are replaced. Brandweins and Chalkleys solutions are 2 widely used recipes for artificial liquid media.

### FAQ's

*I poured my daphnia into an aquarium and they all floated. What went wrong?*

Daphnia have an expanded carapace that can retain air. When you poured the daphnia, air retained by their carapaces caused them to float and become trapped on the surface. Add daphnia to an aquarium by gently submerging the open jar and “pouring” them underwater.

*How can I tell male from female daphnia?*

During breeding season, this is easy. Female daphnia have a dorsal egg sac.

*Can I keep daphnia in an aquarium with fish?*

You can, but the fish will eat them. In fact, many aquarium hobbyists culture daphnia to feed their fish.

*Can I refrigerate daphnia?*

We do not recommend refrigerating them. Plan on using the culture as soon as possible after its arrival.

**Problems?** We hope not, but if so contact us. We want you to have a good experience.

**Orders and replacements:** 800.334.5551 then select Customer Service

**Technical Support and Questions:** [caresheets@carolina.com](mailto:caresheets@carolina.com)



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