

GOLDFISH VARIETIES - (*Carassius auratus*)



STRAIGHT TAILS

(ALSO KNOWN AS SINGLE TAILS)

Common goldfish, comets and shubunkins have relatively long slender bodies. Tail fin is single.

Comet

Body long and slender, tail fin is long and well spread.



MirrorScale Comet

Tail fin is long and well spread. A row of prominent large scales extends along the length of the body.



Bristol Shubunkin

Tail fin long, approximately equal to body length and not draped downward. Lobes at end of the tail almost circular.



Common Goldfish

Body not as long or slender as that of a comet, tail fin is relatively short.



Redcap Comet (Tancho Comet in Japan)

Top of the head, deep red, body and fins pure white.



Shubunkin

Scales mainly transparent. Colours in a mottled pattern with patches of blue, red, orange, yellow, brown or black.



Nymph

Body short and globular. Tail fin is single. (A fantail body with a straight tail).



TELESCOPIC-EYE FANTAILS OR DRAGON-EYE

(DEMEKIN in Japan)

General description as for fantails, with distinct protruding eyes which can come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Fish with very protruding, somewhat cone shaped, telescopic eyes are usually called 'dragon eyes'.

Fantail Telescope

As described above.



Black Moor or Telescopic Moor

A strong black colour.



Calico Telescope

Scales mainly transparent. Colours same as shubunkins.



Redcap Telescope Fantail

A fantail with redcap and telescopic eyes.



Butterfly Tail

Twin tails, spread nearly horizontally and when viewed from above, appear butterfly shaped.



Panda or Magpie Butterfly Tail

A black and white butterfly tail (Black colour often transitional – likely to turn white over time).



Siamese Doll or Lutino Telescope

A pale yellow fish with red or orange coloured eyes.



ORANDAS

Body short and globular. Fins well developed and long. Characteristic growth around head region. The head growth or hood may be absent in young fish and may take up to several years to develop fully.

Oranda

As described above.



Oranda Calico

Scales mainly transparent. Colours same as Shubunkin.



Oranda Red Whitecap (Jade Seal)

A Red Oranda with a white cap (Currently not being commercially produced).



Oranda Pearlscale

Characteristic convex (domed) scales.



Oranda Telescope

An Oranda with distinct protruding eyes.



FANTAILS

Most fantail varieties have short globular bodies. Tail and other fins paired except for dorsal fin, which is single.

Fantail

As described above.



Calico

Scales mainly transparent with many colours same as Shubunkin.



Albino Fantail

Colour white with red or orange eyes.



Tosakin or Curly-tailed Fantail

Body short and globular, tending to be deep. Tail fin web-tailed and joined along the upper margin with characteristic flowing conformation.



Redcap Fantail

Top of the head deep red, body and fins pure white.



Ryukin

Body short and deep (a depth ¾ or more than body length) with characteristic hump contour on the back. The magnitude of the hump increases as the fish matures. Tail is approximately half the length of the body length.



Ryukin Broad Tail

A Ryukin with a tail approximately the same length as the body.



Ryukin Short Tail

A Ryukin with a tail approximately one third the length of the body.



GOLDFISH WITHOUT DORSAL FIN

Egg Fish or Maruko

Fantail goldfish without a dorsal fin (This variety was the forerunner of all dorsal-less goldfish but is rarely seen today).



Lionhead

Characteristic growth around head region. Fins relatively short. Back gently curved. Head growth of lionhead and ranchu may not be present in young fish and may take several years to develop fully.



Lionhead Redcap

Head growth deep red body and fins pure white.



Ranchu

Fish similar to the Lionhead but with a strongly curved back, near the tail.



Ranchu Redcap

Ranchu with deep red head growth and pure white body and fins.



Celestial or Sky-gazer

Eyes large and upturned, fins moderately long.



Bubble Eye

Characteristic fluid filled bubbles directly under the eyes.



POMPOMS

(Can also be spelt pompon – Hanafusa in Japan)

Pompoms are fish with ball like appendages on the top of the head (these appendages are extensions of the nasal septa, they are also known as narial bouquets). Many varieties of goldfish are produced with pompoms which are sometimes in contrasting colours to that of the fish for example White pompoms on red fish or red pompoms on chocolate coloured fish.

Pompon

The standard pompon is a dorsal-less fish with a short to medium length body with paired tail fin and pompoms.

Pompon Fantail

A Fantail with pompoms.

Pompon Telescopic Fantail

A Telescopic Fantail with pompoms.



Pompon Oranda

An Oranda with pompoms.



Pompon Telescope Oranda

An Oranda with telescopic eyes and pompoms.



Pompon Bubble Eye

A Bubble eye with pompoms.



Pompon Celestial

A Celestial with pompoms.



GOLDFISH HEAD GROWTH

Head growth on Orandas, Lionheads, and Ranchus, can be seen in two basic forms.

(1) Hood covers almost the whole head, including the opercular (gill cover).

(2) Hood only covers top of the head (cranial portion). Redcap Orandas normally have this type of headgrowth. This variety is known as 'goosehead' or 'high head'.

PHOENIX TAIL

Phoenix Tail is often used to describe a long finned goldfish variety that is traditionally, dorsal-less and short finned. For example a lionhead with long fins would be called a Phoenix Tail Lionhead.

OUT TURNED OPERCULUM (GILL COVER)

Goldfish with outward flaring operculum, with a forward curl, have been developed in China. This characteristic has not proved to be popular in the West.

GOLDFISH COLOUR AND COLOUR VARIETIES

The metallic, reflective shine that is associated with goldfish is due to their scales having a reflective surface. This results in colour pigments below the scales not being visible.

Goldfish described as 'matt' are missing this reflective quality and have transparent scales resulting in pigments below the scales being visible. This reflective quality can be seen in varying degrees in different fish. For example this is a feature exhibited to at least some degree by all shubunkins and calicos. These fish are known as nacreous.

Wild Goldfish – In nature, wild goldfish are a silvery grey brown, sometimes described in Japanese literature as 'iron colour'.

Uncoloured – Goldfish fry are a dull, grey-brown when first hatched and usually start to change colour within the first 6 months of their life.

Green – The description 'green' is sometimes used for pale bronze goldfish – similar to uncoloured goldfish. These fish are not really green.

Red – Varying shades of orange red, orange and orange yellow.

White – White or silver white, with black eyes.

Redcap – Top region, of head area red, body white.

Chocolate Redcap – A brown or chocolate fish with a red cap such as a Redcap Chocolate Oranda.

Red & White – White with red patches or red with white patches.

Sarassa – A silver- white colour with, clearly defined, intense red patches such as a Sarassa Comet.

Black – Black goldfish other than black moors, tend to fade in colour when indoors.

Red & Black – Red background colour with varying degrees of black.

Tricolour – Usually red, white and black.

Multicolour – A batch of mixed coloured fish showing two or more colours.

Black & White, Panda or Magpie – White background with black patches.

Calico and Shubunkin – Fish with mostly transparent scales. Colours in a mottled pattern, with patches of blue, red, orange, yellow, brown or black.

