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# Frequently Asked Questions about the MARS Aeration System

## 1. What are these bubbles in my pond?

- a. The bubbles come from a MARS 3000 aerator, installed to rehabilitate, maintain, and beautify your pond.

## 2. What is a MARS 3000 Aerator?

- a. The MARS 3000 is the safest, most effective long-term solution to managing ponds. It works by oxygenating nutrients, allowing natural bacteria to break them down so they do not become fertilizer for algae that 'chokes' your pond's ecosystem. The MARS's effectiveness stems from its patented Double Bubble Technology™, which gives it the ability to mix *and* aerate the nutrients present throughout your pond—and this helps to clear your pond better, faster, and for longer than any other product.

## 3. Why is there a fake duck near the aerator?

- a. A float is always used in conjunction with the MARS system so the aerator can be retrieved for inspection and maintenance. A duck is used because it blends in with your pond's environment much better than the more traditional, obtrusive alternatives (such as a toilet float). As a latent benefit, the decoy will attract more ducks to your pond!

## 4. How does the MARS affect my property value?

- a. It increases it! No one wants to live next to a pond that is covered in algae, has dead fish, is infested with mosquitoes, and smells horrible. These common problems often take away from the original benefit of living next to a pond. The MARS creates sustainable pond ecosystems that abate all of these problems for the long term. With more beautiful surroundings, your property value will surely increase—and, because of this, the MARS is equally as valuable as any other capital improvement to your property.

## 5. Why is there still algae on the pond?

- a. The MARS system is not an overnight solution; it is, rather, the only long-term solution. It needs time to treat nutrients that have accumulated in your pond over the years—and, in severe cases, may need as much as 2-3 years to eliminate them all. We expedite this process by harvesting algae intermittently throughout the growing season, effectively removing nutrients from the pond. We have found every individual who has ‘stayed the course’ and used the MARS system for the recommended 3 years is a satisfied customer.

**6. How long does the MARS take to before no algae will appear in my pond?**

- a. Most ponds should be algae-free in a matter of one to two years after installation. In severe cases, old ponds, or situations of prior chemical use, as much as three years may be needed to completely clear a pond of algae.

**7. Why not use chemicals to treat the algae in the short term?**

- a. Because chemicals work against what we’re trying to do: rehabilitate your pond. In chemical-poisoned ponds, algae sink to the bottom and simply become fertilizer for the next algal bloom. Instead of contributing to the problem by adding more nutrient into the pond, the MARS treats the water by breaking down the food source that the algae need to survive.

**8. What is algae harvesting?**

- a. Algae harvesting is a process by which we remove surface level algae from your pond. In doing this, we remove a large portion of the excess nutrient that is ‘choking’ your pond, provide a treatment ‘boost,’ and help the MARS system to rehabilitate your pond faster.

**9. The oxygen seems to be feeding the algae, is the MARS responsible for this?**

- a. This is just an illusion! Algae are not affected by oxygen. As a matter of fact, like other plants, algae undergo photosynthesis—absorbing carbon dioxide as a catalyst. To algae, oxygen is just a waste byproduct.

**10. My pond doesn’t have algae problems, so why was a MARS installed?**

- a. It is actually better to put MARS units into healthier ponds because, instead of treating a smelly, algae packed, ‘dead’ body of water, you are *preventing* it. Storm water retention ponds—those common to many subdivisions—are not a naturally sustained environment. As water flows into your ponds, so do nutrients which inevitably build up over time. Eventually, these contribute to severe, unsightly, and smelly algal blooms that devastate a pond’s ecosystem and lower the property value of all homes in the area. As the saying goes, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”—and this is never truer than when maintaining the value and beauty of your property.

**11. Does the MARS 3000 run all day long?**

- a. The MARS runs all day, every day, all year because nutrients are constantly entering your pond. By maximizing treatment time, the MARS will rehabilitate and maintain your pond more efficiently and effectively.

## **12. What affects my pond's ecosystem? Can I do anything to help?**

- a. Nutrients from fertilizers and landscaping wastes are the most common culprits of pond problems. Avoid fertilizing your lawn near the pond, and be sure that grass and tree clippings don't end up in the water. Contact your landscaping service to make sure that they avoid this as well!

## **13. Why does there seem to be more bubbles from the MARS than from other bubblers that I've seen?**

- a. The MARS is different than traditional bubblers because it utilizes patented Double Bubble Technology™ that combines millions of small oxygenating bubbles with larger mixing bubbles. This combination has proven to be the most effective method of pond management.

## **14. Is it safe to boat near the MARS 3000 aerator?**

- a. The MARS sits three feet above the pond bottom, so boaters in shallow ponds should be careful not to run into the unit. Other than that, care should be taken not to tangle with the float attached to the MARS.

## **15. Does the MARS affect the fish in the pond?**

- a. Fish love the MARS! Its fine-bubble diffusers raise the dissolved oxygen level and its large bubble diffusers mix the oxygen-rich water throughout the pond. This provides the perfect habitat for fish to thrive! Just be mindful when fishing and avoid casting your line too close to the diffuser unit—it might snag or damage the fine-bubble membranes, and you might end up losing your lure!

## **16. Does the MARS help limit mosquito breeding?**

- a. Mosquitoes love stagnant water. It is where they lay their eggs, and the more stagnant water you have, the more mosquitoes can thrive. The Patented Double Bubble Technology™ of the MARS disrupts their breeding environment by adding turbulence to the water via the bubbles that rise to the surface; the unique large-bubble component is especially effective in this regard. This limits mosquito reproduction and therefore the existence of mosquito's around your pond. In addition, with well mixed and aerated water, fish can survive in more areas of the pond. Fish are natural predators of mosquitoes and their larvae, and will help to keep their population at bay. Consequently, not only are you limiting the nuisance but also the public health risk of mosquito borne diseases, like the West Nile Virus.

## **17. Are there any chemicals used in conjunction with the MARS?**

- a. None at all. Poisoning a pond with chemicals actually contributes to the problem, as the dying algae sinks to the bottom and becomes fertilizer for more severe algal blooms the next following year.

