

installed in ponds as small as 3.5 metres in diameter and 0.5 metres deep. Spray patterns range from 1 to 20 metres in height and 0.4 to 18 metres in diameter. The most effective way to use the aerator is to start using it before the algae growth season and fertilizer applications affect the body of water. 'If we can get aeration into the system in the spring, we can control all the factors which lead to the problems of water quality, Roberts states. "It only takes a couple of hours to install a floating aerator," says Roberts. "No special skills are required to anchor or moor the aerator, but we always have a properly qualified electrician to connect the power supply."

The units are anchored, using either concrete blocks placed on the bottom of a large lake with the unit attached to nylon or polyethylene anchor ropes, or with mooring lines attached to opposite banks in smaller ponds. In areas with vandalism problems, bottom anchoring is preferred - Roberts also says it's better to install several smaller aerators than one large unit in large or irregularly shaped

lakes and ponds in order to achieve uniform water quality

The most convincing argument for the benefits of aeration in water quality improvement is its usage by almost all sewage treatment plants in the country, a practice that goes back several decades. The models used to clean up ornamental ponds and lakes are mechanically the same as the aerators in use at waste treatment plants. Visually, however, aerators marketed for use in landscaped settings differ from strictly industrial models. The floating fountains in parks, golf courses, and other sites with water features have more attractive spray patterns.

The internationally renowned Wentworth Golf Club is typical of those reaping the payback of aeration linked to the visual drama created by fountains. The lake here is approximately 3 acres surface area and forms part of the Virginia Water carrier system. The Wentworth management wanted two strategically placed fountains to create a feature within the lake, both being visible from The Club House restaurant and terrace.

Hydroscape installed two Aqua Control 5HP two-stage Giant Tornado fountains incorporating lighting for both day and night time display. Each unit pumps 2.900 cu/m per day maintaining high oxygen levels within the lake; keeping aquatic life healthy whilst reducing the likelihood of an algae invasion.

Wentworth MD, Julian Small states: "besides being both attractive and functional our members love the added dimension of the lake with its fountains. Particularly whilst relaxing on the terrace after a hard fought match! They provide another aspect to the game"

Golf courses aren't the only users of floating aerators. Theme parks, hotels and corporate organisations with landscaped facilities are just a few examples where they have been useful. In fact, just about any location incorporating a water feature would be of benefit.

Another use for the aerators extends their working season into winter by keeping lakes from icing over; the units mix the cold surface water with warmer water below.

Every fountain aerator from

Hydroscape can be hooked up to underwater lights to illuminate the fountain at night. Up to eight powerful flood or spotlights with lenses available in several colours can be installed to the units. With up to 27 different spray patterns available, the floating fountain aerator is both practical and visually impressive. An architect or landscape manager may first look at aerators as a solution to an algae problem, but when they discover the various pattern options, they start to use them as creative landscape elements. After all, floating aerators have triple impact - sight, smell and sound.

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