

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: How can aquaponics help with outside environment?**

**A:** We are experimenting to see if it helps the environment. The theory is that by growing food locally we can reduce carbon dioxide. Transporting food long distances like from South America creates carbon dioxide, which is the major cause of global warming, but we are not yet sure if growing under artificial light uses more energy than transporting food.

**Q: Why are fish the only water animal being used?**

**A:** You have to have things live under water or aquatic animals. Possibly Shrimp, mussels, Scallop, Clams. We can also experiment with other animals.

**Q: What kind of things should you be aware of?**

**A:** We need to test the water at least twice a week. We need to watch the fish to see if they are healthy and growing.

**Q: What do you test for?**

**A:** We test for ammonia, nitrite, nitrate, and pH.

**Q: What is pH?**

**A:** pH is a way of measuring how acidic the water is.

**Q: What is the plants job?**A: So, The plants eat the nitrate and take it out the water so it can go back to the lovely fish.

**Q: Is this cycle used in the outside world?**

**A:** Yes, the system is designed to work the way nature works. Nature naturally heal and cleans itself.

**Q: Is this system used in a larger scale?**

**A:** Yes, Growing Power at 55<sup>th</sup> and Silver Spring produces salad greens and fish, which they sell to organic restaurants and organic markets.

**Q: Is there a way to build this system so that it cleans rain water?**

**A:** Yes, rain water today has excess nitrogen from car exhaust, so this system could be used to remove nitrogen before rain water enters rivers and lakes. Too much nitrogen in rivers and lakes increases algae growth.

**Q: What kind of fish and plants are you growing?**

**A:** We are growing perch because perch in Lake Michigan are disappearing. The plants we are growing are watercress, tomatoes, basil, cilantro, arugula, and lettuce.

**Q: Does it matter what plants you use?**

**A:** You can only use plants that like moist soil.

