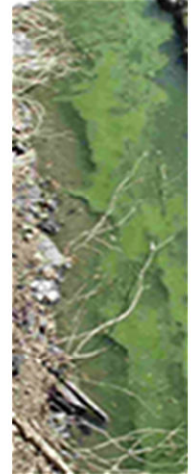


Harmful Algal Bloom Surveillance?

The Harmful Algal Bloom Surveillance (HABS) program is a water quality monitoring system for blue-green algae and algal toxins. Blue-green algae, scientifically known as cyanobacteria, are small, mostly microscopic, photosynthetic organisms. Some blue-green algae naturally produce toxins, which is why they can be a concern. In nutrient rich water they can reproduce rapidly into what are known as Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).



What do blue-green algae blooms look like?

A bloom can look green, blue-green, white, or brown and can form a scum on the surface of the water. They can often be found in large concentrations near the shore.

When do blooms occur?

Blooms can occur anytime of the year, but are most common between June and September when water temperatures are typically higher.

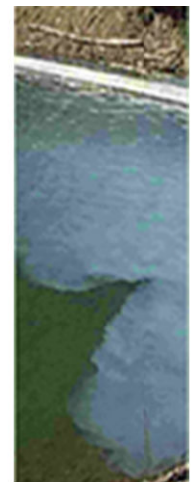
What should I do if I see a bloom?

- Avoid swimming and waterskiing, where blooms are present.
- Keep pets away.
- If you or your pet have contacted the affected water, wash thoroughly with a clean source of water.
- Do **not** use for drinking or cooking. Toxins **cannot** be removed with filtration, boiling or chemical treatments.
- Activities near the water such as camping, picnicking, biking, and hiking are safe.
- Boating at slower speeds is safe provided excessive spray is not created and thus inhaled.



How do I know if a bloom is toxic?

Blue-green algae blooms cannot be determined toxic just by looking at them. Testing is required. Devils Lake is monitored from Memorial Day to Labor Day. To find out if a bloom is toxic, look for signage at lake access points, sign-up for our email service, and/or visit our website www.DLWID.org for water quality updates. If in doubt...stay out!



How dangerous are these algal toxins?

Skin contact can cause rashes or irritation. Significant Ingestion or inhalation can lead to diarrhea, nausea, cramps, fainting, numbness, dizziness, tingling, and in rare cases, paralysis and death. Children and pets are most at risk.

What about fishing?

Eating fish caught during a bloom can pose an unknown health risk. Thoroughly cleaning a fish of its guts, skin and head before cooking reduces the risk. For additional information about fish consumption contact the Oregon Health Authority.



Devils Lake Water
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