



Water Quality: What YOU can do to help Silver Lake. **Tips from the Silver Lake Association's Water Quality Committee**

Tip Five: What to know about Blue Green Algae Blooms

Algae are naturally present in all waters and at times appear as scum layers. The algae can add taste to the water, cause odor problems, consume Dissolved Oxygen when it falls to the bottom of the lake. In the case of Blue-Green Algae, when viewed under a microscope, it actually is Cyanobacteria and not algae. Of the 35,000 strains of Blue-Green Algae only about 1% produce toxins. It should be noted that boiling the water does not kill the toxins.

Algae growth depends on; Nutrient, Sun Light, Warmth, Calm winds, Seed population, and Grazing. The only one that man can control is the supply of nutrients. The other items occur naturally, especially late in the summer.

What precautions should be taken during an algae bloom (picture of bloom to right)? Remember only a few algae may be toxic.

1. Do not drink the water.

2. Do not inhale water droplets. These can come from splashing water, use of PWCs, water skiing and other water related recreation. High winds with waves breaking on the shore are also a source. This can be a problem on large bodies of water.

3. Avoid skin contact with any scum on the top of the water.

4. If using lake water in your cottage, do not use the water for any purpose if it is off color. It should be noted that toxins are only removed by using special filtration.

5. Thoroughly rinse any food that has been sprayed with this water.

6. Keep pets out of the water and away from any algae that may have been washed up on shore. If they come in contact with the algae, thoroughly rinse them off to remove all algae as the hair will trap the algae and then when the pet grooms itself, it can ingest the algae.



Additional information is available at: NYHABS site or <https://nysdec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ae91142c812a4ab997ba739ed9723e6e>