



## **SUMMER WEATHER CONDITIONS AND YOUR LAKE**

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Summertime in Florida means weather conditions change from minute to minute. One moment your melting in the bright sunshine, and being soaked by a torrential downpour the next. Summertime is also a time of change for our lakes and waterways. The increased ambient temperatures paired with longer days creates a growing season for the plants and algae that live in our lakes. As such, increased growth can be expected throughout the summer.

Algae is a simple organism that is always living in our waterways, awaiting the opportunity to grow. Summer weather conditions allow algae blooms to become commonplace this time of year, and they often appear overnight. While unsightly, algae is not a cause for concern as it simply a by-product of optimal growing conditions and excess nutrients in the water. Treatment with an EPA aquatic-approved algaecide will break down the cells and will control the bloom, but it is a process that can take up to two weeks before the dead algae finally decomposes and sinks into the lake. Please bear with us through this process because it takes more time to get the algae under control than it does to grow.

Submersed and floating aquatic plants also take advantage of the summer growing conditions. It is important to note that not all aquatic plant life is bad and should be controlled. The invasive exotic plants such as *Hydrilla* grow much faster than their native counterparts and require control when found in waterbodies. The goal of our lake management program is not to eradicate all plant growth, but to control the invasive exotic species, while allowing the native plants to remain at acceptable levels (no less than 30%). This ensures that the waterway will remain viable for fish and wildlife use by stabilizing dissolved oxygen production in the water and providing habitat for nesting and foraging.

Summer is a period of change for our lakes, and while there may be times where algae or plant growth may seem extreme, it is part of our sub-tropic environment and not a cause for concern. Any issues that arise will be handled during our regularly-scheduled service visits. Just sit back, enjoy the summer and know that while mother nature is at work, so are we!