



HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS



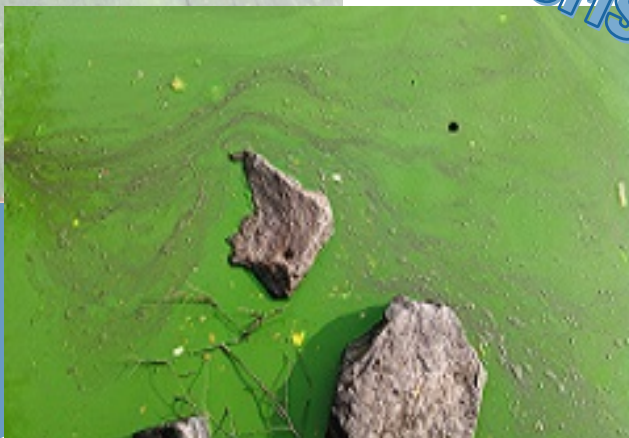
Information for your visit to Cayuga Lake

What are they?

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) happen when naturally occurring cyanobacteria populations grow to dangerous levels. At normal population levels, these organisms are harmless and invisible. At bloom levels, which generally happen in warmer water in mid to late summer, they form visible clouds and produce toxins that can be dangerous to human and animal health. Avoid going in the water when a bloom is occurring.

What do they look like?

HABs are generally recognized by the stripes they make in the water. Other possible appearances are pea soup, spilled paint, and green dots or clumps.



**TAKE PHOTOS!
REPORT BLOOMS!**

Contact Info

CLWN: www.cayugalake.org

CSI: www.communityscience.org

Health Department Contacts:

Cayuga: (315) 253-1405

Tompkins: (607) 274-6688

Seneca: (315) 539-1945

Report Blooms! Help us track by emailing us at:

habshotline@gmail.com

CLWN



CSI



What should I do?

- If you see a HAB, do not drink or swim in the water
- If you or a pet has been swimming in a bloom, rinse the water off with clean water, and make sure to wash your hands before eating
- If you begin to experience symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting, skin irritation, etc.) **contact the county health department and seek medical help**
- Report water that looks suspicious—even if you aren't sure it's a bloom, it's better to report it, so a sample can be taken