



**KNOW IT,  
AVOID IT,  
REPORT IT!**

[HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov)

**Practice good water quality monitoring , being proactive can make a difference!**

- Always remove grass clippings and leaves from the shoreline to prevent nutrient recycling. Circulate water around boat docks, beaches or small coves. **KEEP THE WATER MOVING.** Try a solar aerator.
- Use a weed rake. Just like weeding your garden, get into the habit of raking weeds under docks and along the shoreline. (Remember to tie a rope to the handle.)
- Learn to identify algal blooms and how to report them to the NYSDEC.

## KNOW IT

Most algae are harmless and are an important part of the food web. Certain types of algae can grow quickly and form blooms, which can cover large areas. Even large blooms are not necessarily harmful and can only last a few days. Blooms of algal species that can produce toxins are referred to as harmful algal blooms (HABs). HABs are likely triggered by a combination of factors conditions may include: excess nutrients, lots of sunlight, low-water levels or low-flow conditions, calm water, and warm temperatures.

## AVOID IT

- People, pets, and livestock should avoid contact with any floating mats, scums, or discolored water.
- Never drink, prepare food, cook, or make ice with untreated surface water, whether or not algae blooms are present.
- People not on public water supplies should not drink surface water during an algal bloom.
- Avoid all contact.

## REPORT IT

If you suspect that you have seen a HAB, please report the HAB to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Use the web address above to fill out and submit a 'Suspicious Algal Bloom Report' If possible, attach digital photos (close-up and landscape to show extent and location) of the suspected HAB in the web form. Email: [HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov) if you are not able to complete the form.

Please report any health symptoms to NYS Health Department at [harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov](mailto:harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov)

## HAB REPORTING

[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html)

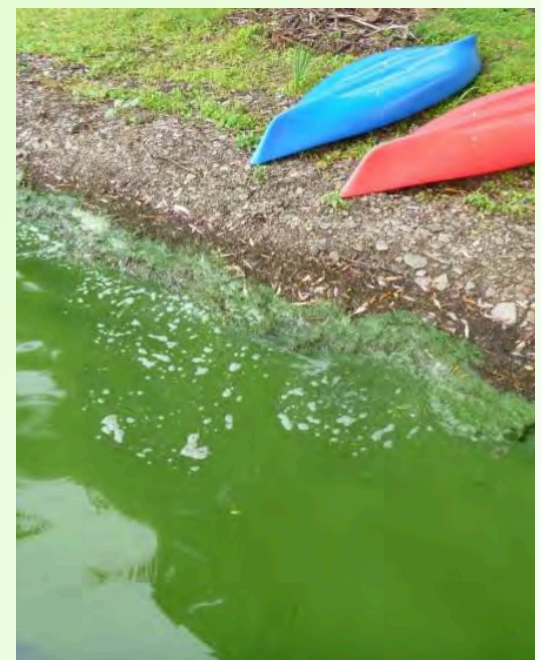


Photo: NYSDEC

