

STAY SAFE! AVOID TOXIC ALGAE!

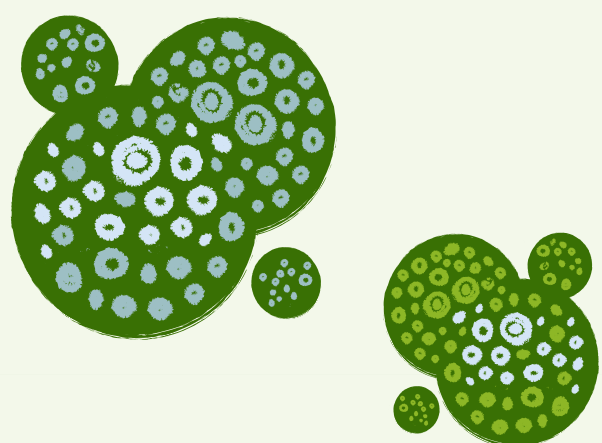
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YEARS



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

WHAT IS TOXIC ALGAE?

Blue-green algae or cyanobacteria naturally occur at low levels in many freshwater ecosystems. But when conditions are ripe, populations of toxic algae have the potential to explode, producing potentially fatal cyanotoxins that can cause severe illness or death from direct contact, ingestion, and even exposure to wind-borne spray. These outbreaks are also referred to as HABs — harmful algal blooms.



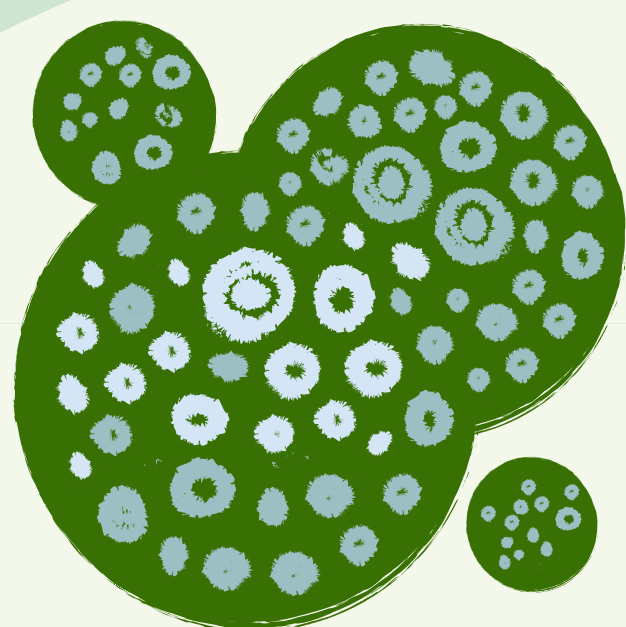
WHAT HAPPENS IF I'M EXPOSED TO TOXIC ALGAE?

Symptoms can include abdominal pain, vomiting, blistering around the mouth, fever, headache, diarrhea, cough, hives, rashes, and respiratory paralysis, and even lead to death. Dogs, cattle, and other livestock can be especially susceptible to toxic algae.



WHAT CAUSES THESE OUTBREAKS?

Outbreaks commonly occur when there's a combination of direct sunlight, slow-moving water, high water temperatures and excess phosphorus and nitrogen in the water. Phosphorus and nitrogen, which feed the bacteria, primarily come from wastewater systems or treatment plants, runoff from over-fertilized crops and lawns that drain to surface or groundwater, beef and dairy feedlot waste, fish farms, and/or other industrial discharges.



THE BOTTOM LINE

Toxic algae outbreaks are a threat to public health across Idaho. The good news is that you can help clean up our waters and protect both human and animal health. If you're out visiting your favorite river or lake and you see what looks like an outbreak of toxic algae, report it!

And remember to take action by calling on your elected officials to address this public health hazard!

Contact the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

REPORT TOXIC ALGAE
by phone: 866-671-5385
by email: algae@deq.idaho.gov
OR report online (QR code):



Contact your elected leaders

ensure funding is made available to monitor, manage, or prevent these potentially deadly outbreaks!

