

## What YOU can Do!!

Blue-green algae are a natural part of water based ecosystems. They become a problem when nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) are present in concentrations above what would occur naturally. Under these conditions, the algae can “bloom,” or grow very quickly to extreme numbers . If this bloom contains blue-green algae then toxins may be produced.

To address the problem of high nutrient levels in our lakes and ponds, we can begin in our own backyards and in our watersheds.

- ◆ Plant rain gardens to reduce the amount of runoff.
- ◆ Only fertilize when necessary and follow instructions on the bag. More is NOT better.
- ◆ Volunteer to help install a floating island in ponds you frequent or in housing developments.
- ◆ Encourage farmers and ranchers to plant buffer strips along waterways to reduce runoff.

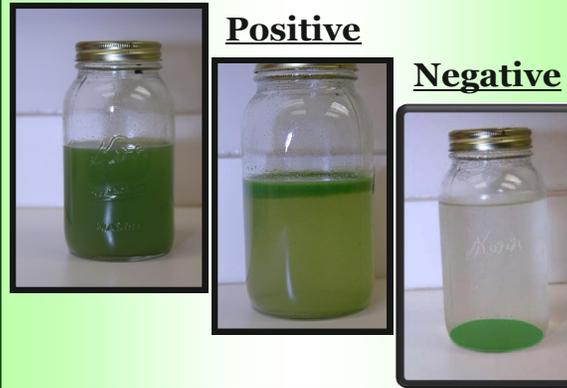
For more information, please visit our website at: [kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness).



## Private Waterbodies

A quick self-assessment tool to see if your private farm pond or lake has a HAB issue is called the Jar Test. For detailed instructions on how to conduct this simple test and for further diagnostic help with a private pond, go to: [kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness) or call KSU Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at 866-512-5650.

### Sample



**If you or your pet become ill,**  
**seek medical or veterinary**  
**attention **immediately.****

For additional information, please contact see our website at:

[kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness)

Or call:

KDHE HAB Hotline:

785-296-1664

## HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS (HABs)

***WHAT TO LOOK FOR***  
***AND***  
***WHAT TO DO***

**WHEN IN DOUBT**  
**STAY OUT**



Our Mission: To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans.



## What are HAB's??

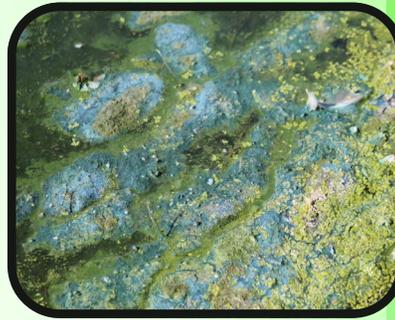
- ◆ Blue green algae is not a new occurrence.
- ◆ Cyanobacteria or blue-green algae are bacteria that grow primarily in water.
- ◆ Microscopic but sometimes can form large colonies.
- ◆ When the bacteria grow rapidly and produce toxins it is called a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB).
- ◆ People and animals may be exposed to toxins while wading, playing, swallowing affected water, or inhaling water droplets.
- ◆ **Be aware:** HAB toxins can become airborne when disturbed and could cause respiratory issues when in close proximity.
- ◆ **The cause is:** increased nutrient loads (i.e., nitrogen and phosphorous) from urban and rural sources into rivers and streams flowing into the lakes.
- ◆ Examples include:
  - ⇒ lawn fertilizers, car washes, golf courses, feedlots, and tilled cropland.



For further information on human and animal illness, see: [kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness) and look under the appropriate sections.

## What to Look For

**Water has a scummy, thick mat or is foamy.**



**Water color is red, pea-green, blue, blue-green, or brownish red.**



**OR**



**Water looks like it has paint spilled on it.**

## What If I See one?

If you see what you believe to be a Harmful Algal Bloom, keep everyone, including pets, from entering the water. If the bloom is on a public lake or pond, you may report your concerns by:

- ◆ Complete the Algal Bloom Report Form on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Website : [kdheks.gov/algae-illness](http://kdheks.gov/algae-illness) and click on the Algal Bloom Reporting Form or,
- ◆ Call the HAB hotline at — **785-296-1664**

**Look for posted signs before entering the water.**

