

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

BE AWARE

Blue-green algae can occur in many of Kentucky's lakes and reservoirs. Enjoy the water, but watch out for signs of a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB), which can have health impacts for humans and animals.

HABs produce **toxins** that can make people and animals sick



Don't swim in or near harmful algal blooms

Exposure to HABs can cause **dizziness, skin irritation, flu-like symptoms** and **breathing problems**



When in doubt, stay out!

Wash off after going into the water (even if the water is clear)

HABs cause **taste** and **odor problems** in drinking water



Don't drink untreated lake water, and **rinse off** fish fillets with tap water before eating

HABs disrupt the lake's ecology by **reducing oxygen levels**

Seek medical attention if people or pets become ill



Conditions can change rapidly.

For the most up to date HAB alerts, visit:

watermaps.ky.gov/HABS



What Does a HAB Look Like?

Some algae and freshwater plants can make a lake look green, but are actually **nontoxic**.

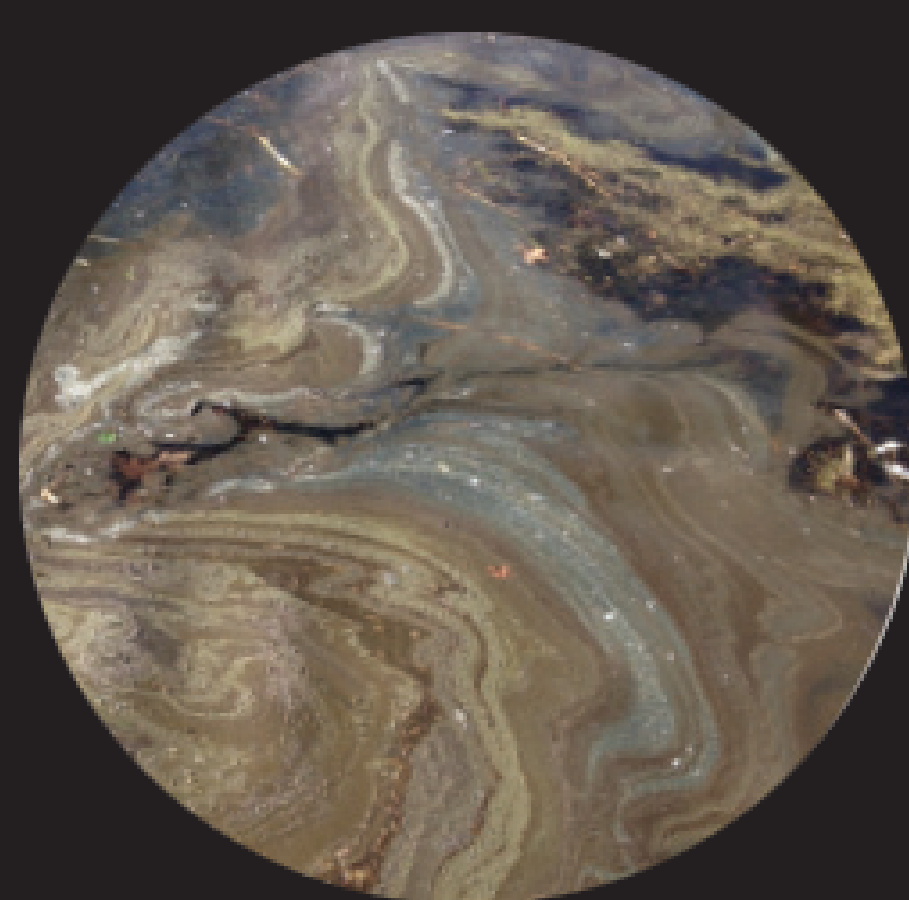
Toxic algae, like those shown below, can be harmful. Watch out for the telltale signs of toxic algae:



Grainy up close, like sawdust



Bright green or green blue paint-like slicks



Red or brown slicks

HELP US TRACK HABs!

Call the Kentucky Division of Water to report a bloom at 502-564-3410

