

# FACTORS INFLUENCING CYANOBACTERIA (BLUE-GREEN ALGAE)

## Cyanobacteria

are found naturally in waterbodies such as lakes and rivers. They were the earliest known forms of life on earth and are a key source of food for aquatic life. Certain environmental factors can affect their growth such as:



Excess nutrients



Sunlight



Warm water temperatures



Slow moving or shallow water can be a factor in the formation of surface blooms



Nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorus) are naturally occurring in waterbodies and are needed for plant and animal life. Excess nutrients can find their way into waterbodies through storm water runoff, agricultural runoff, industrial and municipal wastewater, faulty septic systems and lawn fertilizers.



**CLIMATE CHANGE** impacts such as warmer temperatures, more intense rainfall events and drought conditions could impact the growth of cyanobacteria blooms.



## WHAT CAN I DO?

We can all play a role in preventing cyanobacteria blooms by helping keep excess nutrients from entering the water:

- ✔ Maintain a buffer of natural vegetation (trees, shrubs) along waterbodies to help filter run-off and provide shade to keep the water temperature cool.
- ✔ Use phosphate-free cleaning products.
- ✔ Avoid the use of fertilizers, especially near water.
- ✔ Maintain your septic system and locate it far from the shore.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO REPORT A  
CYANOBACTERIA BLOOM  
visit: [www.gnb.ca/algae](http://www.gnb.ca/algae)

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