CONCERNED ABOUT ALGAE?

ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT FLORIDA

Have you seen reports of algae in your lake? There is a new reporting and monitoring program maintained by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) that tracks harmful algal blooms (HABs). Although common in most of Florida's aquatic environments, HABs are blooms of cyanobacteria that have the potential to produce harmful toxins. Anyone can report blooms and track them on the Algal Bloom Monitoring Dashboard located at floridadep.gov/AlgalBloom.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens after a bloom is reported?

- If warranted, the FDEP schedules sampling of the waterbody.
- Results of the sampling are posted to the dashboard floridadep.gov/AlgalBloom.
- If a bloom or toxins are detected, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) will issue a warning or alert for the waterbody. The Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will also send out an advisory.
- The waterbody may be tested again in 4 to 6 weeks.

What should I do if a bloom or toxin is detected on my lake?

- Refrain from recreating on the lake, including swimming, fishing and boating.
- Keep pets away from the water and do not let them drink from it.
- Refrain from using lake water to irrigate your lawn or vegetation.

How will I know if it is safe to resume water activities?

- Once the bloom is over and there are no longer toxins present, DOH and EPD will lift their advisories.

How can I get the most up-to-date information?

- Make sure you review the FDEP dashboard at floridadep.gov/AlgalBloom.
- Sign up for Orange County's advisory smartphone apps here: www.ocfl.net/alerts.

Contact and Resource Information:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Algae Blooms
floridadep.gov/AlgalBloom or call FDEP at 855-305-3903

Florida Department of Health - Algae Blooms
http://www.floridahealth.gov/environmental-health/aquatic-toxins/harmful-algae-blooms/index.html

Orange County Environmental Protection Division
https://orange.wateratlas.usf.edu/ or call 407-836-1400

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - Cyanobacteria
https://myfwc.com/research/wildlife/health/other-wildlife/cyanobacteria/

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