



Have you seen this floating on your shoreline?

It's called Filamentous algae

Description: Mass of long, stringy, hairlike strands; usually green in color but may become yellow grayish or brown; individual filaments are a series of cells joined end to end, which give them a thread-like appearance.

Hints to identify: Forms greenish mats on the water surface; begins growth along the water's edges or bottom and rises to the surface as a bubble-filled mass when mature; slimy or cotton-like in appearance; may form hair-like growth on logs, rocks, and other vegetation at lake bottom and on the shoreline. Spirogyra gives water a "grassy" taste and odor.

Importance of plant: Provides cover for small animals such as aquatic insects, snails, and scuds, which are valuable fish food.

Why is it on our Lake: The Eagle Lake Association brought a sample to the DNR to learn about what is it and why we have it. We spoke to Bruce Gilbertson and he was able to identify the plant and here is what he had to say; All lakes have some of this floating around but when you have stagnant and low water level conditions the algae will get baked by the sun and start to decompose. When this starts to happen it will create the sewer like smell some of you are experiencing on your shoreline. As of June 1st we have no water coming in or going out of Eagle Lake. This is creating a lack of current which is promoting the decomposing we are seeing. We need a good couple of rain falls to get the current flowing again. Additionally, our lake is in the upper range for Phosphorus levels according to lakes in our same Echoregion. When you combine that with the 21 feet of average clarity we have this year, the result is great conditions for Algae growth.

What can I do about it: Bruce recommended getting a permit to remove it from your shoreline and around your dock. He supports a non chemical process like a weed roller to remove this from parts of your shoreline. This also creates a nice hard sandy bottom when it is done. Many of us on the lake have them and they work great. You only need to run them for about a week a year. So share one with a neighbor. Tenson marine in Raymond carries them. Otherwise physical labor works too!

The Eagle Lake Association continues to be proactive in monitoring our lake conditions and creating projects that will help the long term improvements of our lake. Please do your part in keep phosphorus out of our lake. Our lawns don't need phosphorus. Our soil is rich with it. Keep yard waste out of the lake and surrounding area. Don't burn it on the shoreline. Take it to the landfill, it's free! Prevent runoff from your home and lot from entering our lake.

We thank those of you who contacted us about this condition.