



Green Algae Basics

Algae are simple plants and the ancestor to all terrestrial plant life on earth. There are currently over 30,000 species of algae thriving on earth today. They dwell in every ecosystem and are responsible for significant changes in the history of the planet. In other words, they have been here a long time and have found ways to win out against their competition.



Algae will grow as long as temperature, nutrients and sunlight are sufficient. We call these regenerations an algae "bloom". Algae blooms may happen any time and are unpredictable. Blooms are common throughout the summer months and some are more severe than others. ASAP visits each pond every week for 31 weeks. We do the absolute best to combat these blooms quickly. Most occasions we are able to catch blooms before they become problematic. Some ponds produce algae so quickly that it may surface a few days before our scheduled visit... **There is simply no way to prevent algae from growing.** Algae is generally first noticed when it reaches the surface. It is the primary detractor from the enjoyment of a pond or lake. An owner of a pond lot can go to bed Monday night and wake up Tuesday morning to a pond covered in algae. It is often thought that giant rings or mats of algae on a pond indicate that something isn't being done properly. This might be true in some cases, but **giant and multiple blooms of algae are common and cannot be prevented.** It is for this reason that our industry often jokes about algae being job security.

When a significant level of sunlight can reach the bottom, algae will grow. If you could dive to the bottom of a pond you would find a carpet of algae, sometimes several feet thick. This carpet grows steadily and sections or layers will peel off, buoyed by trapped gases. The gases are a combination of natural by-products of photosynthesis and decaying organic material below. Often, huge islands will rise due to weed growth from the underside pushing the algae off the pond bottom.

Treatment of Green Algae

As applicators we spend the majority of our time treating algae. It doesn't take long in our business to develop a respect for the tenacity of these simple plants. Unlike weeds that have a vascular system to support the entire plant, algal cells are independent. This means every individual algal cell must come in contact with the algicide to be killed. Powerful equipment and proper technique is needed to effectively distribute the chemical to these mats of algae. Algae mats can be tough as rope and stop a forward traveling outboard motor cold in its path. Controlling algae is not as simple as pouring some product into the water and sitting back to watch. With hundreds or thousands of dollars of product in a tank it is important to efficiently apply the solution.

Sometimes algae mats are so thick and saturated with gas pockets that they float for several days post treatment. These dead mats will remain on the surface until decomposition releases the trapped gases. Small mats of dead algae usually sink within 6 or 7 days.



Bottom Line:

ASAP is ready to work hard to keep the green algae in your pond from putting a damper on your summer pond side experience.