

## Didymo and Blue-Green Algae

I've been learning about Didymo and blue-green algae. Did you know blue-green algae can make a whole pond or lake green and cloudy in a few days? Did you know didymo can destroy entire stream beds with mats as thick as eight inches? Blue-green algae and didymo are both fresh water algae that are bad and spread really fast in a short amount of time.

Blue-green algae or cyanobacteria is green most of the time and turns blue when the chlorophyll breaks down. It can look like thick pea soup, green paint or green cottage cheese. Blue-Green algae grows on calm days and often collects along the shore line. Cyanobacteria grows quickly when there is shallow water, warm air, warm water temperatures, sunlight, calm winds and nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen. Blue-Green algae affects humans and animals. It sometimes produces neurotoxins that can be dangerous if swallowed in large quantities. This algae is taking over fish habitats and habitats of other species in the underwater world.

*Didymosphenia geminata*, sometimes called 'didymo', is a fresh water algae that looks like wet wool. It could look like fiber glass or toilet tissue. Didymo sometimes looks brown, tan or yellow in color or could be white in color. Didymo grows on rocks and in moving water. Didymo forms a fat mat that smothers other plants and insects. Didymo uses stalks to attach to stream beds.

Didymo and Blue-Green algae are fast growing fresh water algae. They are destroying our lakes and streams. To help prevent the spread, clean your boats, boots, 4~wheelers, etc. with household bleach and water and let gear thoroughly dry for two days.

### Bibliography

"Didymo: a nuisance and invasive alga." *Environmental Protection Agency*. Federal Fly Fishermen , Web. 20 Nov. 2009.

"Didymo or Rock Snot (*Didymosphenia geminata*) in Vermont and the Northeast." *Water Quality Division* . 11 Nov. 2009. Web. 20 Nov. 2009.