

# Controlling Blooms of Blue-Green Algae

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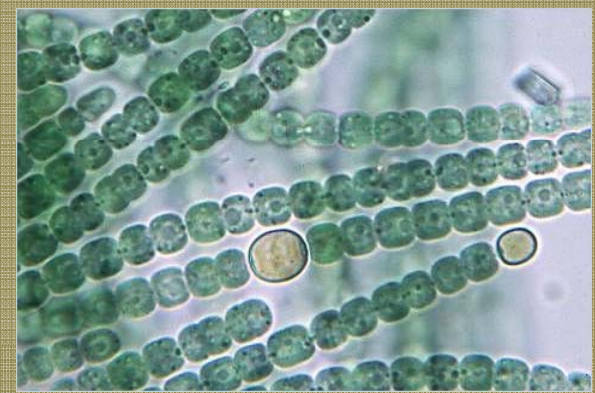
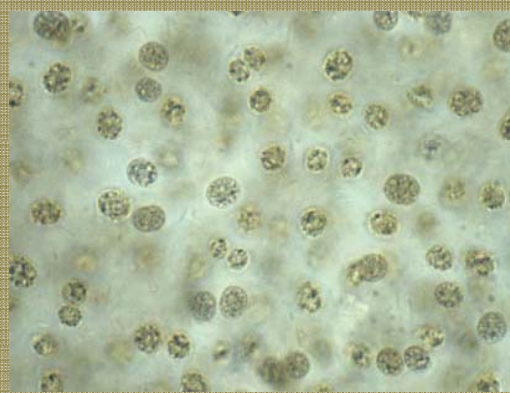
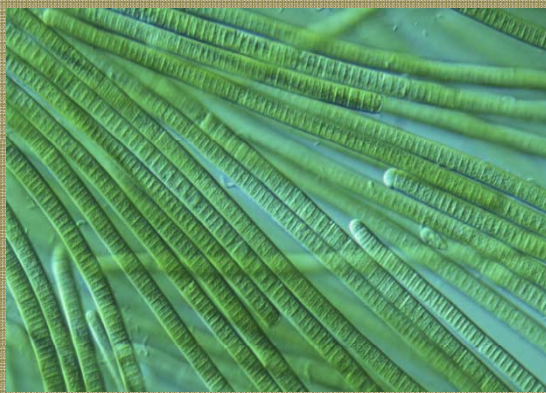
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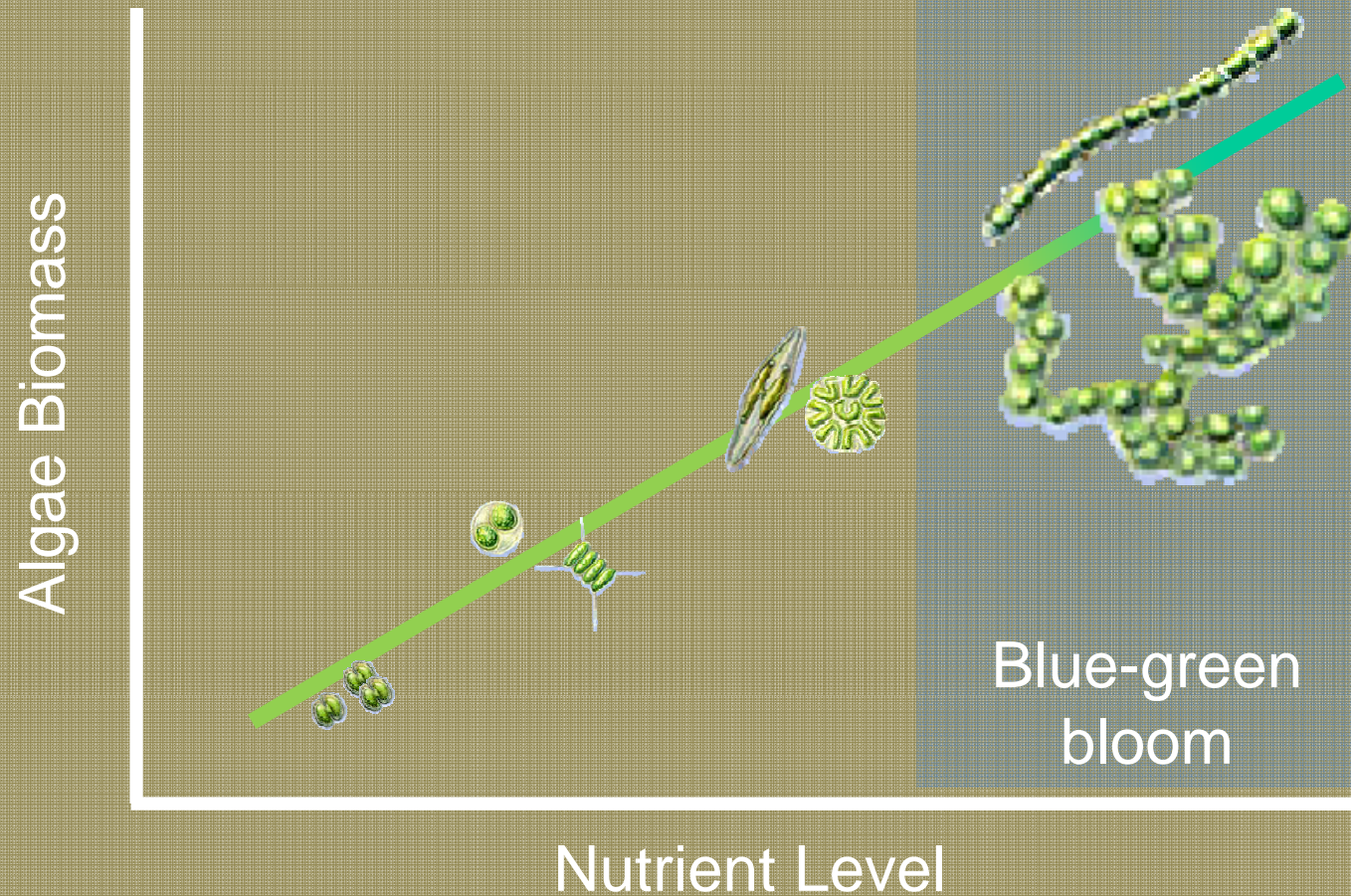
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# What Are Blue-Green Algae?

- Blue-green algae are a type of bacteria.
- Their ancestors were the *first life on Earth*, 3.5 bya.
- They gave us:
  - *oxygen*
  - a *radiation shield* up in space
  - all the *nitrogen* for plant growth
- They have evolved toxins for defense against predators.
- These toxins can be harmful to wildlife, livestock, and people.



# What Causes Blue-Green Blooms?



# Where Do Nutrients Come From?



Nature

Us

- Septic beds
- Fertilizer
- Detergents

Lake

# How Can We Keep Nutrient Levels Low?

1. Reduce use of fertilizers on lawns and gardens.  
*Anything in a storm drain is 5-7 minutes from Lake Ramsey! A green lawn is a green lake.*
2. Maintain septic systems.  
*Just a few bad systems can cause a local blue-green bloom.*
3. Switch to phosphorus-free detergents.  
*Phosphorus-free dishwashing liquids and powders are widely available.*
4. Don't remove aquatic plants.

# Conditions Promoting Blooms

