



FACT SHEET

Blue-green Algae and Beaver Lake

- Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are microscopic organisms commonly found in lakes and streams. Blue-green algae were one of the first forms of complex life on earth.
- **Blue-green algae are present in Beaver Lake but not in concentrations that are an issue for “treating” or cleaning the water to ensure the water is safe to drink.**
- **Beaver Water District routinely takes water samples from Beaver Lake.** Samples are examined to get an accurate count and speciation on the types of algae present.
- **Beaver Water District is committed to protecting the public health by providing safe, clean drinking water.**
- **Drinking water from Beaver Lake sometimes has an earthy taste and an odor.** This is caused by blue-green algae that die as water temperatures begin to cool in the fall. However, the water is safe to drink.
- Blue-green algae may become very abundant (bloom) in warm, shallow, undisturbed water that receives a lot of sunlight.
- **Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen promote the growth of blue-green, as well as other alga.**
- Blue-green algae can produce bright green, blue-green, yellow, brown or red blooms. Other algae, such as green algae or diatoms, can also produce blooms.
- **Some species of blue-green algae produce toxins that may be harmful to humans and other animals.** The most common exposure to blue-green algal toxins is through direct bodily contact with surface scum of algae on the water. **The District has an algal toxin monitoring program in place.**

For more information, link to the North American Lake Management Society’s helpful Blue Green Algae page:

<https://www.nalms.org/inlandhabs/>

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About Beaver Water District

Beaver Water District supplies drinking water to people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas. These cities then resell the water to surrounding towns and communities. The District’s mission is to sustainably provide our customers with safe, economical drinking water. For more information, visit www.bwdh2o.org.