

# CYANOBACTERIA:

## A BLOOM TO WATCH FOR

### What is it?

- Cyanobacteria is a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) that can appear in freshwater lakes and ponds or in the sea
- Although given the nickname "blue-green algae," it is not actually an algae
- Cyanobacteria is one of the oldest single-celled bacteria species on the planet



Think you've seen a HAB? Report it!  
Visit [www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118)  
for more information

### Why is it harmful?

- Cyanobacteria is toxic to both humans and animals when ingested or come into contact with via swimming, recreation, and even breathing it in
- Recent studies have found connections between prolonged exposure to cyanobacteria and chronic illnesses, like ALS

### QUICK I.D.

- COLORS RANGE FROM LIGHT GREEN TO BLUE-GREEN
- FORMS A FILM ON THE WATER'S SURFACE
- LOOKS LIKE SPILLED PAINT



LOWER  
HUDSON  
PRISM