

## Blue-Green Algae: If in doubt, stay out

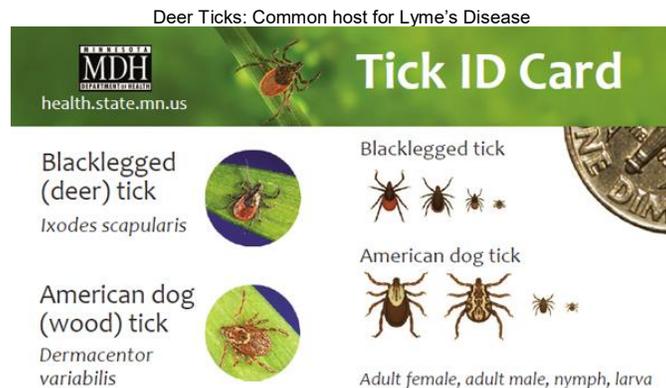
**Blue-green or cyanobacterial algae** are algal blooms containing toxins or other noxious chemicals, which can pose harmful health risks.

Where to look for blue-green algae? Blue-green algal blooms typically occur on lakes with poor water quality (high in nutrients), and look like green paint or pea soup but can also be found in slow moving waterways such as rivers. There is no visual way to predict the toxicity of an algal bloom. So it's best for yourself, your family, and your pets to **keep out of questionable water**.

Why are there blue-green algal blooms? The blooms become prominent in areas high in organic nutrients, such as those found in fertilizers, entering aquatic habitats. Recreational waters near farms and residential lawns typically harbor organic nutrients that can spark the growth of algae and potentially, cyanobacterial (blue-green algae) growth.



## Watch for pesky insects and early signs of Lyme's disease



**Deer Tick Identification:** The size of the deer tick can vary depending on the sex of the tick and feeding state. Approximately the size of a sesame seed, a female adult deer tick measures about 2.7 mm in length. The males are smaller. Deer ticks tend to live in wooded areas and along trails in forests. Ticks are often on the tips of grass and leaves along trails, to enable them to crawl directly onto the skin or fur of a passing host.

### Signs of Lyme

The signs and symptoms of Lyme disease vary among individuals. A person may not have all of the symptoms and may feel like they have the flu but the following are signs to consider: A distinctive rash, fever, chills, headache, muscle and joint pain, and fatigue.

According to the MDH, days to weeks after onset of illness, one or more of these signs and symptoms may occur: Multiple rashes, facial paralysis on one side of the face, fever, stiff neck, headache, weakness, numbness or pain in the arms or legs, or irregular heartbeat. Other signs could be joint swelling, arthritis, problems with the nervous system or persistent weakness and fatigue.

**Have a fun and safe summer, if you have any questions about this article please call the Office of the Environment: Environmental Specialist, Amanda Strick: 507-697-8642**