

Blue-Green Algae

What are Harmful Algal Blooms

- Dense concentration of cells
- Composed of microscopic cyanobacteria (also known as Blue-green algae)

Toxins

Some blue-green algae may produce toxins.

- Toxins released through excretion from cells or as cells die
- Harmful to aquatic life, pets, and humans
- NOT all algal blooms produce toxins

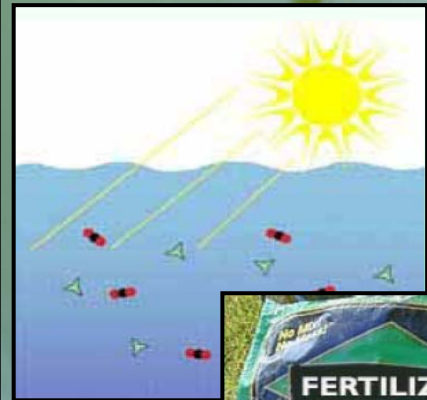
What Causes Algal Blooms?

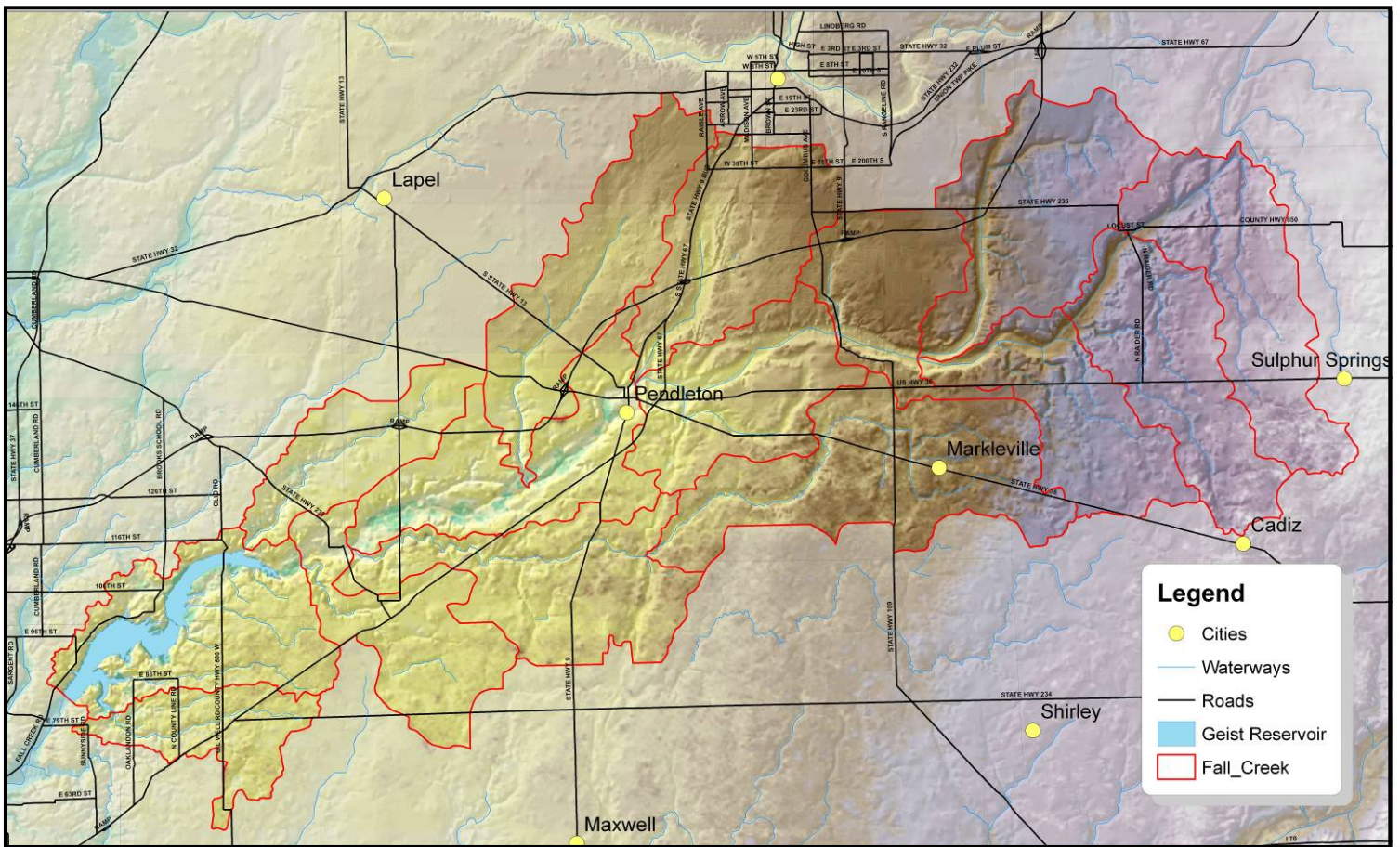
Blue-green algae photosynthesize the same as plants, they need:

- Sunlight
- Warm water temperature
- Nutrients (fertilizer!)
- Still Water Conditions

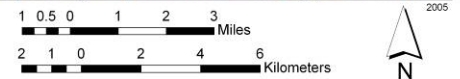
What Can Be Done to Reduce Blooms?

- This is very difficult!
- Reduce nutrient fertilizer input into the reservoir
 - Lakeside property owners
 - Fall Creek Watershed landowners
- Algaecide treatment
 - Short-term solution; limited effectiveness
 - Only possible before bloom well developed
 - Not advisable if toxin-producing species present





Fall Creek Watershed
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Map of Fall Creek Watershed. All rainfall within this area flows into area streams and into Geist Reservoir. Water also runs directly off of lawns of lake-front homes. Sustainable water resources come from proper stewardship of all of the area within the watershed boundaries.

Things to Do Around Your House:

- Use Phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers around lakeshore.
- Do not fertilize within 20 feet of lakeshore.
- Do not dispose of grass clippings or leaves in lake.
- Have septic systems inspected and tank pumped at least every two years.
- Work with watershed groups to reduce nutrient inputs.

(modified from 2005 IDEM)



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