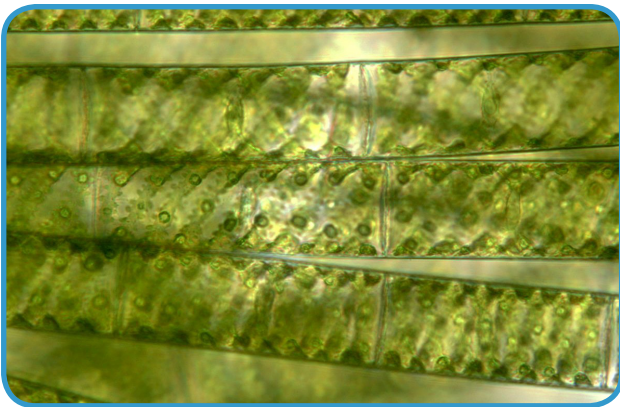


fact sheet



Filamentous mats attached to rocks

Magnified filaments of *Spirogyra*Magnified filaments of *Spirogyra***Algal Group:**

Chlorophyta

Description:

Filamentous green algae range in color, texture and habitat. They may be yellowish, dark green or bright “grass” green. They can turn white when they dry out while some filaments are thin and slippery, that others are coarse and dense. They start out as individual cells that attach to a rock or other hard surface. As they grow, some form dense clumps on rocks and wood. Other filamentous greens form long, hair-like strands that wave about in the currents or form cottony masses that float on the surface.

Habitat:

While most filamentous greens grow in fresh water, a few can be found in estuarine and marine environments. They can be found in fast moving streams and rivers or in the still waters of lakes and ponds. Filamentous greens can be found throughout the year but are most common in ponds and lakes during summer.

Significance:

Filamentous greens are a natural part of aquatic environments and provide food and shelter for fish and aquatic insects. They can become a nuisance when large mats cover ponds and shorelines or clog ditches. Nuisance growths are often associated with elevated nutrient conditions such as those commonly found in golf courses and agriculture drainage ditches. Other problems associated with filamentous greens are musty, earthy, fishy or septic odors that are especially noticeable when mats die off and collect along a shoreline.