

## IDENTIFICATION GUIDE:

## Green Algae

# fact sheet



Green algae sometimes attaches to rocks and roots.



Green algae can be found in fast moving currents.



Green algae floating on still water.

### **Algal Group:**

Chlorophyta

### **Description:**

Green algae are a large and diverse group. Greens can be microscopic single cells or colonies with whip-like tails (flagellae) that propel them through the water. Other greens are more plant-like, clearly visible along stream banks and shorelines. While green algae can be found throughout the year, they are most common during summer.

### **Habitat:**

Green algae can be found in all types of habitats including ponds, lakes, rivers and soil. Most greens prefer freshwater, but a few also grow in brackish and marine waters. Some freshwater filamentous greens can be found in fast moving currents attached to rocks and roots or simply floating on still waters.

### **Significance:**

Green algae are generally beneficial and provide food and shelter for many aquatic insects and fish. Blooms are usually an indication of elevated nutrients and occur when environmental conditions are conducive for excessive growth. Some algal blooms can discolor the water and cause changes in the amount of oxygen in the water, which can affect fish and other aquatic life. Filamentous greens can form large, unsightly mats that may hamper boating, fishing and swimming.