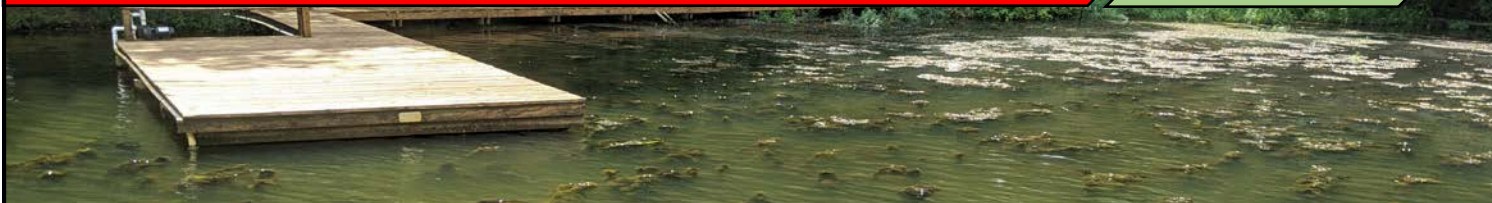


# Lyngbya Management Program

## Lake Gaston – 2024

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What to  
Expect and  
FAQ's



### WHAT IS LYNGBYA?

Lyngbya is a filamentous cyanobacterium, blue-green alga with both freshwater and marine species. Lyngbya found in Lake Gaston (*Microseria wollei*, formerly *Lyngbya wollei*) can be identified by its dense, dark-colored mats, wool-like texture, and strong musty odor.

Lyngbya persists year round in the form of thick mats that cover the lake bottom, but during warm summer months it will proliferate through the water column and form mats at the water surface. Lyngbya uses multiple pathways to obtain energy and therefore factors that drive distribution and growth are largely unknown at this point.



### WHAT IS THE LYNGBYA TREATMENT PROGRAM?

The Lake Gaston Weed Control Council has facilitated operational scaled treatments specifically targeting lyngbya since 2021. Incorporated shorelines are identified through a combination of active survey work and public reporting. Sites are prioritized and delineated based on multiple factors, including the potential posed for increased lyngbya distribution, current lyngbya infestation levels, and site specific features that will improve treatment efficacy.

The public can report lyngbya on Lake Gaston by visiting the Lake Gaston Weed Control Council website and using the aquatic plant reporting form.



### WHEN DO LYNGBYA TREATMENTS OCCUR?

Lyngbya treatments will be applied at Lake Gaston on a monthly basis (mid-month) between April and September, 2024 to sites located throughout the system.

### WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT TO SEE?

The application company that has been contracted to perform Lake Gaston's lyngbya treatments, Aqua Services, utilizes airboats and an autonomous injection system to target lyngbya along the lake bottom.

The chemical protocol that is utilized at Lake Gaston includes chelated copper based algaecides that are EPA-approved for aquatic use. These algaecides have a bright blue hue and will be observed in the water directly following applications, but have no use restrictions in terms of irrigation, fishing, or swimming.

### HOW QUICKLY WILL TREATMENTS WORK?

Immediate damage to lyngbya as the result of treatments is difficult to visually observe, but overall biomass should decrease between treatment seasons. Mat material is expected to persist along the bottom of the lake during the treatment period, but homeowners may notice an immediate response to treatments with the absence of surface mat formations.

To achieve control, lyngbya treatment programs are expected to be a multi-year process.

