

Lyngbya Management Program

Mountain Island Lake – 2024

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 Mountain Island Lake (*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 along the lake bottom, but will proliferate through the water column to form mats at the water's surface during warm summer months. 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 development of this program was facilitated by the Catawba-Wataree Water Management Group (CWWMG) and 21 acres have been identified to receive treatments in 2024. Treatment sites were determined using data collected from Duke Energy's survey efforts and the Duke Energy Aquatic Plant reporting tool.



The public can report lyngbya on Mountain Island Lake by using the Duke Energy Aquatic Plant Reporting Form or by visiting duke-energy.com/AquaticPlants



WHEN DO LYNGBYA TREATMENTS OCCUR?

Lyngbya treatments will be applied at Mountain Island Lake on a monthly basis (mid-month) between April and September, 2024 to sites throughout the lake including the McDowell, Gar Creek, and Neck Road areas.

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

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT TO SEE?

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

The chemical protocol that will be utilized at Mountain Island Lake 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 season. 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

