

# Lyngbya

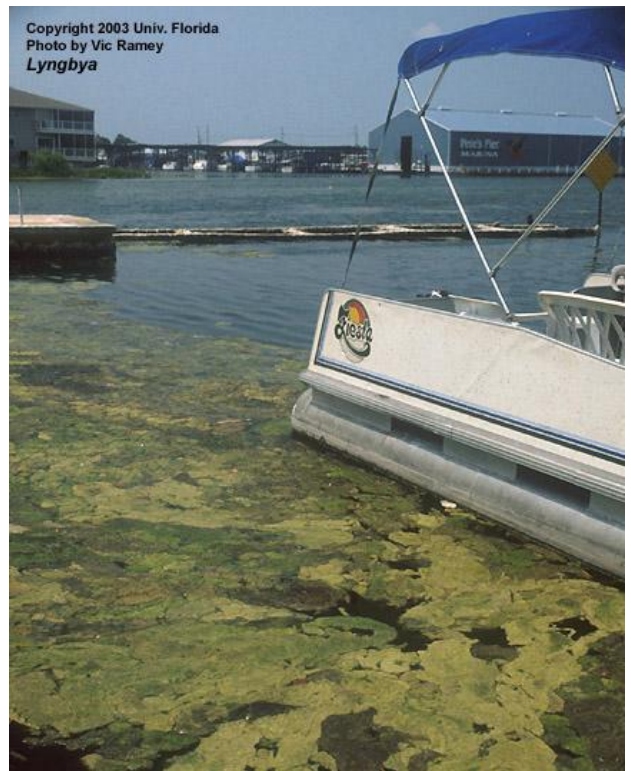
## (Blue-Green Algae)

*[Lyngbya agardh]*

### DESCRIPTION

Lyngbya forms dense mats of cells protected by an external sheath. The mats are present in warmer months as floating mats that can cover entire bodies of water. In the spring, the plant is black and then slowly become mottled with green, black, white filaments in late summer and fall. In addition to the floating mats, there are often submersed mats that are classified as benthic. Weather events and differing lake temperatures can cause the benthic mats to rise to the surface, and likewise the surface mats to sink to the bottom.

The mats of lynbga are made up of masses of entangled filaments that resemble human hair. Lyngbya can thrive at extreme temperatures ranging from melt-water lakes and streams to hot springs.





**lyngbya**



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**References:**

*Line drawings:*

University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. Used with permission. Available online from <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/slidecol.html>

*Text:*

Aulback-Smith, C. A., and de Kozlowski, S. J. 1996. Aquatic and Wetland Plants of South Carolina. South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.