


ALGAL BLOOM

WHAT CAUSES HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS?

There are many factors that contribute to algal blooms, but a major element is nutrient pollution. Some sources of nutrient pollution have much bigger impacts and are more preventable than others.

POLLUTION SOURCES	DESCRIPTION	SOLUTIONS
<p>Farm runoff of synthetic fertilizer and manure</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improper application Field runoff from rain and storms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stream buffer zones Wetland restoration Catchment ponds Use sustainable fertilizers like compost 
<p>Factory farm manure lagoons</p> 	<p>Breakouts and leaks</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise animals on pasture Rotational grazing Do not overcrowd animals 
<p>Wastewater treatment plant discharges</p> 	<p>Discharges containing excess nutrient loads</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use biofilters such as wetlands etc. Strict regulations and enforcement Separate rainwater from sewage 
<p>Septic systems</p> 	<p>Leaky septic systems</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular checks on septic tanks Prepare for storms and droughts 
<p>Urban and manufacturing runoff</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gutter runoff from rain and storms Manufacturing discharges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stricter pollution standards Rainwater harvesting 
<p>Lawn fertilizer runoff</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improper application Yard runoff from rain and storms 	<p>Use sustainable fertilizers like compost</p> 
<p>Climate change causing warming water</p> 	<p>Warmer water makes better conditions for algal blooms</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support renewable energy Fight climate change 
<p>Natural atmosphere</p> 	<p>The atmosphere's high nitrogen content cycles into water</p> 	<p>Nothing – fix the other problems!</p> 

RESOURCES:

Environmental Protection Agency:
<http://bit.ly/1Q366pw>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:
<http://bit.ly/1TLlz3p>

Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology:
<http://bit.ly/2aZ6zQc>

 Sustainable Table

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