

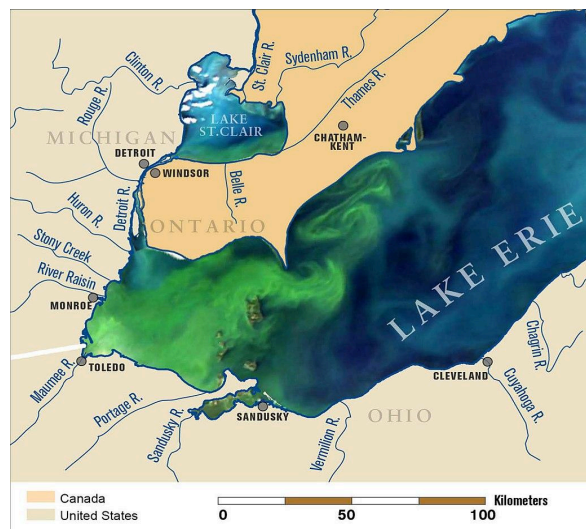
Algae Blooms In Lake Erie

Canada is home to several beautiful great lakes, which are full of biodiversity, and natural beauty. Among these diverse great lakes is Lake Erie. Lake Erie is home to a number of animal species vital to our ecosystem like yellow perch, however Lake Erie has massive algae blooms. Are these algae blooms dangerous to the animals of Lake Erie, and why do these algae blooms happen? What are algae blooms, and how can we stop them? Today, we will be talking about the algae blooms in Lake Erie.

First, algae blooms are large increases in the population of algae in an area of freshwater, which can destroy an ecosystem. An ecosystem has to be balanced, but whenever there is too much or too little of something in an ecosystem it can affect everything in the ecosystem, which is algae in this case. Now that we know what algae blooms are, we need to know what causes algae blooms. An algae bloom will occur when algae multiply too quickly, which can happen for a variety of reasons like runoff pollutants from farm fields. In lake Erie the blooms are caused by runoff pollutants from farm fields.

Next, the algae blooms in Lake Erie make a very bad impact on the ecosystem because they can be toxic to us humans, the animals around Lake Erie like wolves in forests who rely on Lake Erie for drinking water, and lastly for the fish in Lake Erie, which play key roles in the ecosystem. If we don't act now, Lake Erie could lose the abundance of wildlife that it currently has, and will be a large body of toxic green water with no amazing fish, no majestic wildlife, and abandoned beaches that were once warm, and sandy. Plus, some people will lose their drinking water, and there are many other terrible things that could happen.

The image below showcases the size of Lake Erie and it's toxic algae blooms.



Source: Prepared by Michigan Sea Grant for Michalak, A.M., et al. (2013). | GAO-17-119

In order to stop the algae blooms in Lake Erie, we need to stop what's causing the algae blooms, which is runoff pollutants from farm fields and factories. We can do this by planting trees, shrubs and grasses around the edges of farm fields so that the pollutants are absorbed into the plants and not into the lake. Another way that we can stop the algae blooms in Lake Erie is to use eco-friendly pesticides so that if the runoff does get into Lake Erie it will not negatively affect Lake Erie in the way that pesticides currently do. If you want to help protect Lake Erie you can even do small things like using a reusable water bottle, or recycling oil, because doing small things can make a big difference. Finally, make sure you spread the word about what you can do to help protect Lake Erie because to protect Lake Erie from runoff pollutants, we must all work together.