QUICK START GUIDE

bloomWatch

OBJECTIVE:

Photographically document when and where potential cyanobacteria blooms are occurring for further verification.

WHAT YOU NEED: The only tools required for this program is a smartphone and its accompanying bloomWatch App. IOS phones must have version 7.1 or newer, and Androids must have version 4.0 or newer.

VISIT CYANOS.ORG/BLOOMWATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION.

GET STARTED

Screen 1. This is your introductory/welcome screen. It explains the purpose of bloomWatch and allows you to enter your name or affiliation name, a relevant email address where your images will be sent, and the name of the waterbody where the images were taken. Input information is then saved prior to proceeding on to the next screen/page.

Screen 2. Input information on public access, current weather and lake surface conditions, and bloom size. Weather and lake surface condition helps determine if a harmful cyanobacteria bloom has occurred. Bloom size provides information on the extent of the bloom; the app utilizes common items/places (i.e. tennis court) as a spatial frame of reference.

All fields must be filled in (even just with N/A) in order for your submission to appear on the database

Screen 3. Capture three separate and distinct images of the perceived bloom. The photos should all be taken from the same location, which is geo-located by turning your "location on" function in your smartphone or by selecting "get coordinates" directly from the app. The images need to be captured as follows:

- Image 1 - Large area photo that shows the extent of the bloom; capture part of the shoreline, a large area of the lake, and some skyline.
- Image 2 - An image of the water surface taken from a standing position, ten to thirty feet away.
- Image 3 - Close up photo of the bloom from three feet away or less, or if possible, a picture of the bloom material in a clear glass container held out at arm's length.

At least one image and coordinates must be included

Screen 4. Verify data and submit. Confirm that the waterbody name and the date of when the images were taken is correct. Once the images are submitted, they are sent to the crowdsourcing database CitSci.org where the images and accompanying data will be stored for public use (note: your personal information is protected and hidden from public view). Also, if desired, data and images can be automatically sent to key contact people.