

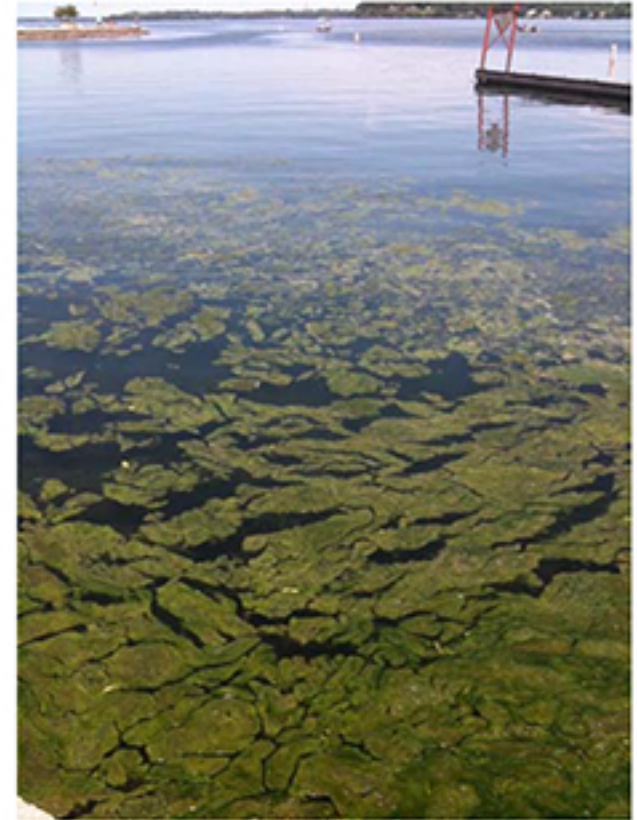
# The *Spirogyra* Cycle in Lakes



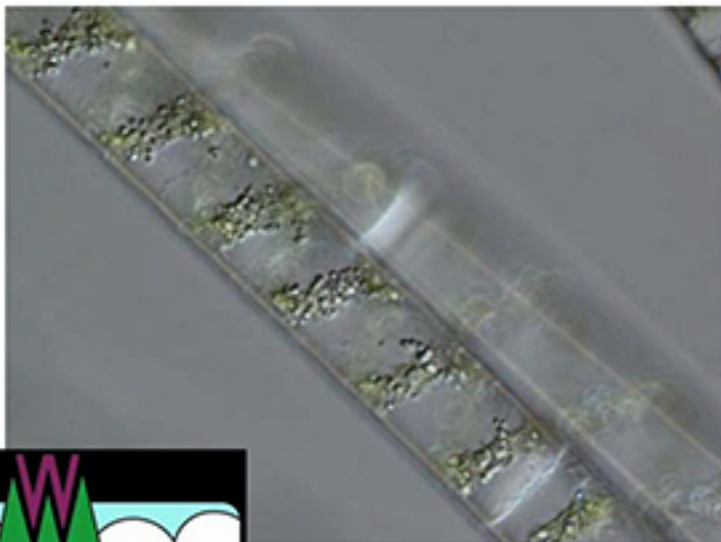
*Spirogyra* starts growth in the spring and appears as green “clouds” near the lake bottom or entangled in lake plants.



If photosynthesis rates are high, oxygen bubbles form on the algae and lift it to the top of the water column.



No longer submerged, the algae mats undergo sexual reproduction, producing resting cells and then breaking down.



Left: *Spirogyra* filament.  
Right: filaments after sexual reproduction hold resting cells, which fall to the lake bottom to wait for better conditions.