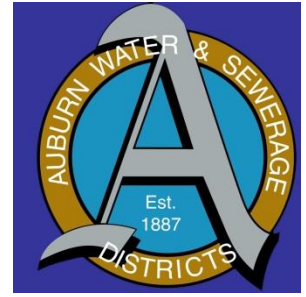




Are you detecting an odor in your tap water?



In the spring and fall, algae called Synura can grow in lakes and reservoirs. Synura produce an odor that is similar to cucumber or raw vegetables. Synura is a type of algae known as a 'golden algae'. This type of algae does not produce toxins. Our Water Quality Manager has confirmed the presence of Synura in Lake Auburn.

Although the odors produced by the algae are harmless, the human senses of taste and smell are extremely sensitive to them and can detect them in the water at very low concentrations.

We have recently conducted maintenance activities that have introduced fresh water from the lake to our system. We have completed those maintenance activities.

It is important to emphasize that our water meets all health and safety standards.

While it may have an off-smell, the water is safe to drink. The water is tested regularly for contaminants and meets all federal and state standards for drinking water.

Algae occur in all lakes, and even drinking water systems that use filtration treatment have algae issues. Lake Auburn has had algae problems for a couple of years now, and we are working hard to identify sources of nutrients (food for algae) and to find solutions.

Synura is killed during the treatment process, and we will continue to monitor the lake and watershed to detect causes or sources of algae growth. We don't know how long it will last.

Suggestions for drinking water from the tap during Synura events:

Fill a pitcher with water from the tap and refrigerate it overnight; this has been found to reduce odor.

For people particularly sensitive to odors, adding lemon slices to the drinking water can mask odors.

We do not recommend point of use filtration systems. If consumers want to install a filter at their tap, they should investigate thoroughly and use the NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) website, paying special attention to maintenance of the system. Improper or insufficient maintenance of tap water filters can cause bacterial or other contamination problems.

For further information, or if you have additional questions, please call our office during regular business hours.

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