



Green algae in Boracay

What are green algal blooms?

The algae causing the blooms are normal components of a clean, healthy reef. But when the reef is destroyed, they are the only ones that can easily grow fast since there are no more fish to eat them. They are brought to shore by waves, and in the presence of nutrients, algae bloom.

Green algae bloom when the temperature is high, when exposed to sunlight, in favorable water movement (i.e., slow moving water), and with presence of excessive nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates, as it serves as fertilizers to algae. Common sources of excessive nitrates are septic tanks and untreated wastewater from hotels and households.