

Uncle Bill's

Bathroom Reader

The More You Go, The More You Know

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Is algae one of the keys to a sustainable future?

The word algae is plural for alga and refers to a group of photosynthetic creatures that make up anything from pond scum to seaweed. Algae are often praised for their role in removing carbon dioxide from the environment but can also present a biological hazard when warm summer temperatures and agricultural run-off feed large algal blooms. An algal bloom may be composed of toxin producing algae, and worse yet, algal blooms can spur a chain reaction that causes bacteria to multiply and remove precious dissolved oxygen from aquatic environments.

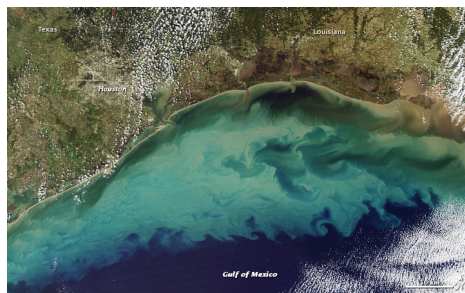
A body of water particularly infamous for algal blooms is the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi River flows into the Gulf of Mexico about 100 miles downstream of New Orleans, and along the way it collects vast amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous as it winds through one of the world's most productive farm regions. While these algal blooms pose a problem in the Gulf of Mexico, algal blooms if duplicated for commercial farming may be one of the keys to a sustainable future.

One company researching potential uses for algae is Global Algae Innovations, a San Diego, California based company with farm operations on the island of Kaua`i. The goal of

their company is quite obviously stated in the name, and they hope to innovate ways to reduce the cost of farming algae, especially for use in biofuels. Algae based biofuels are currently too expensive to compete with other biofuels, but Global Algae Innovations hopes to bring the cost of algae biofuel down to 2 dollars per gallon. Algae biofuels are better than traditional biofuels, because algae: (1) grows much faster than other terrestrial crops currently used to produce biofuels, (2) uses far less water than traditional crops, and (3) can be farmed on land where other things will not grow. Also, production of algae biofuel produces a protein rich byproduct, which could be critical to quenching the growing demand for farmland used to produce protein rich animal feed. Algae may literally be a green solution.



(Global Algae Innovations Kaua`i Farm)



(Gulf of Mexico Algal Bloom)

Quotes from Lawyers

Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. As a peacemaker the lawyer has superior opportunity of being a good man. There will still be business enough. – Abraham Lincoln

Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you. – Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Courage is the most important attribute of a lawyer. It is more important than competence or vision. It can never be an elective in any law school. It can never be de-limited, dated or outworn, and it should pervade the heart, the halls of justice and the chambers of the mind. – Robert Kennedy

History, in illuminating the past, illuminates the present, and in illuminating the present, illuminates the future. – Benjamin Cardozo

