Is that pollen or algae?

During the spring and fall, plants produce large quantities of pollen. You may notice pollen covering surfaces in your everyday life, like your car, and causing you to have seasonal allergies.

When wind disperses the pollen, it can accumulate on lakes, rivers, and coastal waterways. Pollen may appear to be yellow speckles, streaks, or scum on water surfaces.

The Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture manages Connecticut’s shellfish sanitation program. Part of the program involves monitoring for harmful algal blooms (HABs). HABs are microscopic organisms that live in the water column and produce toxins that can accumulate in shellfish tissues. HABs are detrimental to human health, the environment and/or the economy in every U.S. state. Freshwater HABs (cyanobacteria, or “blue-green algae”) tend to form green blooms, while marine HABs (commonly referred to a “red tides”) tend to form brown-red blooms.

Different types of harmful algal blooms showing the bloom and the microscopic organism responsible