

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Rock Snot Discovered in the Yough

Re: Rock Snot Discovered in the Yough

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2012/6/5 14:16:57

URL:

Quote:

Why is this algae more prevalent in coldwater streams?

Well, first, I don't think it's true that normal algae likes warmer water. The limestoners are rich with algae and tend to be cooler than non limestoners. That's why you always have that milky color, or at least green, rarely are they gin clear very far from their source. In the ocean, algae blooms often occur in polar regions.

What it likes are excess nutrients. Phosphorus, in particular. Combine that with sunlight and you have conditions ripe for normal algae.

Like all organisms, different types of algae compete against each other, and hold each others populations in check. Didymo has evolved to escape this competition by thriving in nutrient poor waters and being able to survive periods long without much sunlight. It also is very hardy and can tolerate heavy current.

What conditions favor it? I'd assume low water, lots of sunlight would stimulate growth. And the streams where it'll be worst are nutrient poor, fast streams, where other algae doesn't do so well.