



Phormidium- Toxic algae

A guide for dog owners

What is Phormidium?

Phormidium is a mat forming cyanobacteria (often referred to as toxic algae) which occurs on stony, shallow rivers like the Tukituki. It can be black, brown, olive green or grey. In summer when rivers are low and water is warm, phormidium blooms and mats can either become exposed as water levels drop, or detach and wash to the side of the river. This is when dogs are most at risk.

