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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Cladophora Kingdom: Protista  Phylum: Chlorophyta  Class: Ulvophyceae  Order: Cladophorales  Family: Cladophoraceae  Genus: Cladophora | Image captured with the Motic 2300 - 40x - 11/2009 | |  | | | General Information:  Many different types of algae can be found in the creek. Green algae tends to be the most prolific (grows the fastest). The commonly observed green algae is seen in large mats floating on the surface and attached to the creek bottom. These large mats are a filamentous variety formed of clong chains of cells. The growth of this type of algae is most rapid in late spring and summer when temperatures are high and nutrient levels rise as a result of fertilzer runoff and increased rates of decomposition. The growth at this time significantly exceeds the rate of consumption by algae eaters leading to stagnation, an accumulation of decomposing organic matter, a decrease in dissolved oxygen levels below the mats of algae as a result of increased rates of decomposition, and a decline in the diversity of creek organisms. Cladophora is a filamentous green algae that forms branches along the chains of celss (upper right) and has a uniform distribution of chlorophyll within the cell. These two characteristics make it distinguisable from [Spirogyra](http://docs.google.com/spirogyra.html) and [Zygnema](http://docs.google.com/zygnema.html). | | |  | | |  | Image captured with the Motic 2300 - 100x - 11/2009 |  |  | | --- | | Copyright © 2008 Amador Valley High. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or medium without express written permission of Amador Valley is prohibited. | |