

MUCK AND INVASIVE PLANTS

WHAT IS MUCK?

- Muck is a brown to black substance created by decaying organic materials, like leaves and algae
- Muck naturally occurs at the bottom of water bodies like lakes, ponds, and other depressions
- A small amount of muck is normal in an aquatic ecosystem

INVASIVE PLANTS AND MUCK

- Invasive plants grow rapidly, leaving little time for organic material to decay, resulting in muck accumulation
- Floating aquatic plants, in particular, create an abundance of muck

THE PROBLEM

- Muck levels are all about balance, and too much muck is often tied to poor water quality and increased algae blooms
- Invasive plants can create an anaerobic environment and decrease sunlight under the water's surface, leading to a challenging environment for native plants and animals

THE SOLUTION

PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT

- Proactive management of invasive plants is an approach that involves continuous, routine monitoring and management to maintain invasive or nuisance plant populations at low levels
- By controlling invasive plant populations, native plant communities can thrive and the effects of muck accumulation are reduced

