MUCKARDINVASIVE 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

Floating aquatic invasive plants block sunlight by covering the water's surface

Invasive water hyacinth drops 60% of its leaves every month

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

Excessive accumulation of decaying organic matter (muck) at the bottom of water bodies can reduce water quality and harm native ecosystems

Anaerobic means there is little to no available oxygen in the environment



