



# IMPACTS OF MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

## **INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT TOOLS HAVE BOTH PROS AND CONS.**

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Each type of invasive plant management technique can have both positive and negative impacts.

## Biological Control

- Very selective and plant specific
- Once established, it becomes a continual and self-sustaining management practice
- Requires more than 10 years of research and is considered expensive by experts
- Not effective for eradication and populations of the agent may not become established

## Chemical Control

- Considered by experts to be more effective and cost efficient than other methods
- Selective in which plants are targeted
- Decaying plants release some nutrients back into the water
- Has a negative public perception

## Mechanical Control

- Removes plants and associated nutrients from the water body
- Reduces muck from decaying plants
- Not selective in which plants are targeted and cannot access some areas where they grow
- By-catch of fish and other organisms occur
- Usually considered to be more expensive compared to other techniques

## Physical Control

- Considered to be a more natural plant removal process
- Prescribed burning can be good for the regrowth of native plant populations
- Can take a significant amount of time and human cooperation
- Can lead to new infestations of invasive plants if the plants are not disposed of properly
- Most Florida lakes are not suitable for versions of this technique such as lake draw downs

## Integrated Plant Management

Provides the opportunity to use the strengths of various control methods to complement one another. This type of management requires continual ecosystem evaluation in order to weigh the pros and cons of each management method and combination. Regularly implementing integrated plant management will reduce the overall environmental and economic damage and help maintain healthy habitats for native plants and animals.

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT US



352-392-9613  
caip-website@ufl.edu  
<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>

