



New Zealand Pigmyweed, also known as Australian Swamp Stonecrop, was introduced from Tasmania to Britain in 1911 as an oxygenating plant for ponds. It has spread rapidly since the 1970's.

Distribution map - New Zealand Pigmyweed  
Source: Botanical Society of the British Isles (2010)

A downloadable identification sheet for this species is available at [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org)

Separate leaflets are available outlining the legal requirements and responsibilities for landowners.

The correct disposal of plant material is vital because there is a high risk of spreading the problem further. Contact the Environment Agency (England and Wales) or SEPA (Scotland) for advice on disposal.

Environment Agency - Tel: 08708 506 506  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

Scottish Environment Protection Agency  
Tel : 01786 457 700 [www.sepa.org.uk](http://www.sepa.org.uk)

Further information may also be found on the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology web pages:  
[http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sci\\_programmes/AquaticPlantManagement.html](http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sci_programmes/AquaticPlantManagement.html)

**A local project is currently underway with the aim of tackling Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) in the Tame Valley Wetlands scheme area.**

**We are asking local landowners, friends of groups and other interested parties to help us in this task to prevent the spread of these invasive species and promote native flora.**

**If you would like to know more about our project, need advice or help with management, we would like to hear from you.**

### Tame Valley Wetlands

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## Control of invasive non-native species

### New Zealand Pigmyweed Australian Swamp Stonecrop *Crassula helmsii*



**Crassula grows in still or slow flowing water bodies up to 3 metres deep. It is very easily spread, with the ability to grow from very small fragments. It forms dense mats, out-competing native species, and choking ponds and drainage ditches.**

# Control methods for New Zealand Pigmyweed



*Crassula* quickly out-competes native vegetation with very rapid growth and uptake of almost all the available nutrients.

There are three typical growth forms:

- (i) a terrestrial form with creeping stems and aerial leaves;
- (ii) an emergent form with densely packed stems;
- (iii) a submerged form that grows from a basal rosette with long, sparsely-leaved stems reaching the surface.

## Control & disposal

This plant is best treated at the early stages of infestation. Delay will make the problem much worse in successive years.

Chemical control of emergent material with glyphosate is the best option. Cutting is not recommended, but dredging out marginal and emergent material can be effective, as the plant is shallow-rooted. The area around any infestation should be fenced to prevent movement of fragments by livestock. Dredged material should be piled in heaps and covered with thick black polythene sheeting or at least 20cm of soil. Shading of terrestrial or emergent forms with opaque material such as black polythene for about three months may be effective, but is difficult to install and manage, and vandalism can be a problem.

## Non-chemical control

Cutting

Not recommended.

Hand-pulling can be a very effective method of control. Volunteer groups can tackle large infestations with the use of rakes and forks. Care is needed to ensure fragments do not drift and establish elsewhere.

Dredging

Dredging of marginal and emergent-material throughout the year can be effective, although it is necessary to ensure that plant fragments cannot be transported elsewhere.

Shading

Covering with black polythene or similar for up to 10 weeks during the growing season.



Local dispersal is aided by the high viability of small fragments, which can be carried on mud to new sites.



The leaf bases are joined, forming a distinctive 1mm collar around the stem. In summer, white flowers grow in the axils of the leaves on emergent and terrestrial forms.

## Chemical control

Glyphosate

Chemical control can be achieved by applying glyphosate with the adjuvant Topfilm to emergent growth.

Submerged

There is no effective herbicide treatment for submerged *Crassula*. Draw down or drain the waterbody, if possible, and treat as emergent growth.

In general

Regular treatment is necessary. Weed wiping may be appropriate in mixed marginal vegetation. Spot treatment of small patches will prevent complete dominance. Treat early and regularly.