

## BIOSECURITY WARNING

*Crassula helmsii* is a non-invasive plant that inhabits wetland habitats. It has many names, the most common being: -

New Zealand Pygmyweed  
Austrialian Swamp-stonecrop

This plant is able to regenerate from tiny fragments, can rapidly establish and dominate affected areas. The effects of this plant on the wetland is significant. It can reduce the quality of fishing and is a threat to native plant species. Anything coming into contact with this plant can carry it around and therefore spread it including fishing equipment, clothing and boots.

Essex and Suffolk water have previously undertaken a costly project to remove this from the sandbar at Layer Pit. Anglers fishing this site **MUST** be aware that they can spread the plant between sites. CAPS ltd have many different waters so all members must be vigilant and responsible in their actions. All members should follow and incorporate the **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** motto.

If *Crassula helmsii* returns to Layer Pit, Essex and Suffolk water are to be informed and together with CAPS Ltd will initiate a plan of action. Please check for further information on identification of this plant at the GB non – native species secretariat website. <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>. Part of their pdf info sheet is copied below. New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*) (PDF)

**STOP THE SPREAD**  
**INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES**  
**CHECK-CLEAN-DRY**

Invasive plants and animals harm the environment, reduce the quality of fishing and spread disease. Please help to stop them by following the Check, Clean, Dry code.

**CHECK**  
Check your equipment and clothing for living plants and animals. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

**CLEAN**  
Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothes thoroughly. If you do come across any plants and animals, leave them at the water body where you found them.

**DRY**  
Dry all equipment and clothing – some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

Half a hour of the invasive species that are a problem in our waterways:  
Zebra Mussels  
Fish Lice  
Eelworm  
Crayfish

[www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry)

defra, Environment Agency, natural scotland, NNSS, SFCA, Angling Trust, RAFTS

# New Zealand Pigmyweed

## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Crassula helmsii*

**AKA:** *Tillaea aquatica*, Australian Swamp-stonecrop,

Briweg Seland Newydd (Welsh), *Tillaea recurva*

**Native to:** Australia and New Zealand

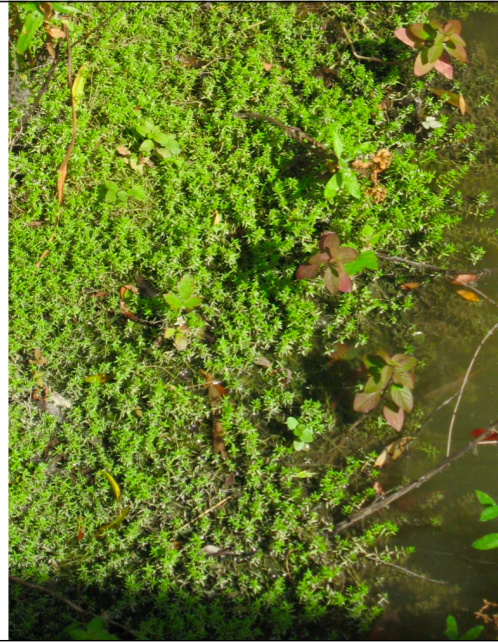
**Habitat:** Aquatic up to 3m deep in still or slow flowing water bodies or terrestrial around pond or lake margins

Can be submerged, emergent and terrestrial. Readily recognisable when growing at the edges of water bodies by its fleshy leaves. Submerged leaves are less easy to see and recognise. Reproduces from very small stem fragments but does not produce viable seed in the UK.

Introduced in 1911 as an oxygenating plant for ponds and, since the 1970s, has spread rapidly. Forms dense mats and can impede drainage, causing flooding. Displaces other aquatic plant species and reduces amenity use of the waterbody.

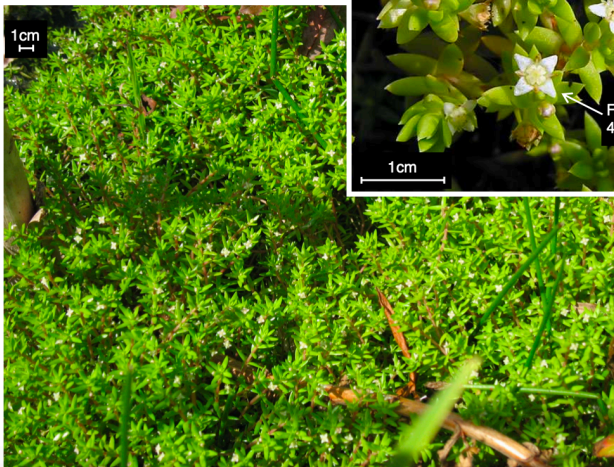
New Zealand Pigmyweed is listed under Schedule 9 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 with respect to England, Wales and Scotland. As such, it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause this species to grow in the wild.

For details of legislation go to [www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation).



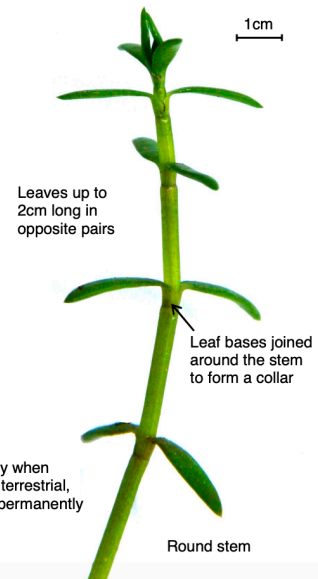
## Key ID Features

Forms dense mats within the water body



Flowers very small, often absent, whitish-green to slightly pink

Flowers have 4 petals



Leaves up to 2cm long in opposite pairs

Leaf bases joined around the stem to form a collar

Leaves fleshy when emergent or terrestrial, flatter when permanently submerged

Round stem