

# New Zealand Pigmyweed

*Crassula helmsii*



**Habitat:** Aquatic, freshwater  
**Family name:** Crassulaceae  
**Common name:** Swamp Stonecrop



New Zealand pigmyweed stand

**Description:**

New Zealand pigmyweed, is an aquatic or semiterrestrial species of succulent plant in the family Crassulaceae.

Originally found in Australia and New Zealand,

The shoots are rather stiff, carrying narrow parallel-sided leaves in opposite pairs, each leaf being about 4–24 millimetres.



New Zealand pigmyweed stand

The plant grows on the muddy margins of ponds where it forms carpets with 100% cover, or semi-submerged in deeper water, or



New Zealand pigmyweed stems



New Zealand pigmyweed flower

totally submerged with elongated pink stems.

New Zealand Pigmyweed does not die back in winter.

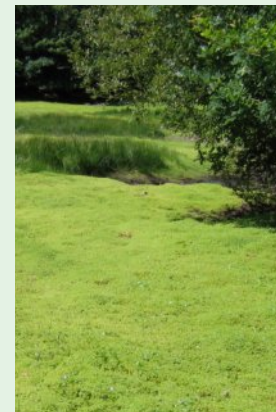
Plants form thick dense mats which can

float or be submerged. The thick mats cause shading of existing water plants and the depletion of oxygen in the water, which leads to a reduction of native flora and fauna.

Possible health hazard, as the thick mats can be mistaken for dry land.

The species can move onto a terrestrial habitat after it colonises an aquatic area.

Can obstruct boats and reduce the opportunities where fishing can take place, which may impact upon local economies.



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Small star-like white flowers with four petals are produced in summer on long stalks arising from



New Zealand pigmyweed submerged

the upper leaf axils. The flowers are always above water.

Seeds can be produced but reproduction usually takes place through fragmentation or tiny individual plant nodes,



New Zealand Pigmyweed Identification

which are capable of producing a new viable individual.



New Zealand pigmyweed diagram



New Zealand pigmyweed terrestrial