



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust



PLANT PROFILE

Australian swamp stonecrop

INVASIVE

FACTS

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Species description

Scientific name:

Crassula helmsii

Other names:

New Zealand pigmyweed
or pygmyweed

Native to:

Southern Australia,
Tasmania and New Zealand

Cronfa
Treftadaeth
Heritage
Fund



Mewn Partneriaeth â
Llywodraeth Cymru
In Partnership with
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Interesting facts

Impacts:

Forms dense mats to the exclusion of native aquatic plants and marginal plants. Can negatively impact other freshwater aquatic species such as newts, frogs and invertebrates. It can disrupt recreational and commercial water-based activities.



Habitat:

Australian swamp stonecrop grows in a variety of habitats, including ponds, lakes, reservoirs, on damp mud, canals and ditches and can tolerate a wide range of conditions. It can grow below water, on the margins of water bodies or on damp ground.

A fast-spreading herbaceous perennial that can colonise bodies of water. It grows to 3m below the water surface and 0.5m above water surface. Australian swamp-stonecrop was first grown in Britain in 1927 and was discovered in the wild in 1956.

How it spreads:

It spreads vegetatively from even the smallest stem fragments. It is easily moved to new locations by sticking to boots, clothing, equipment, machinery, boating and angling equipment as well as by sticking to feet of waterfowl, dogs and livestock.

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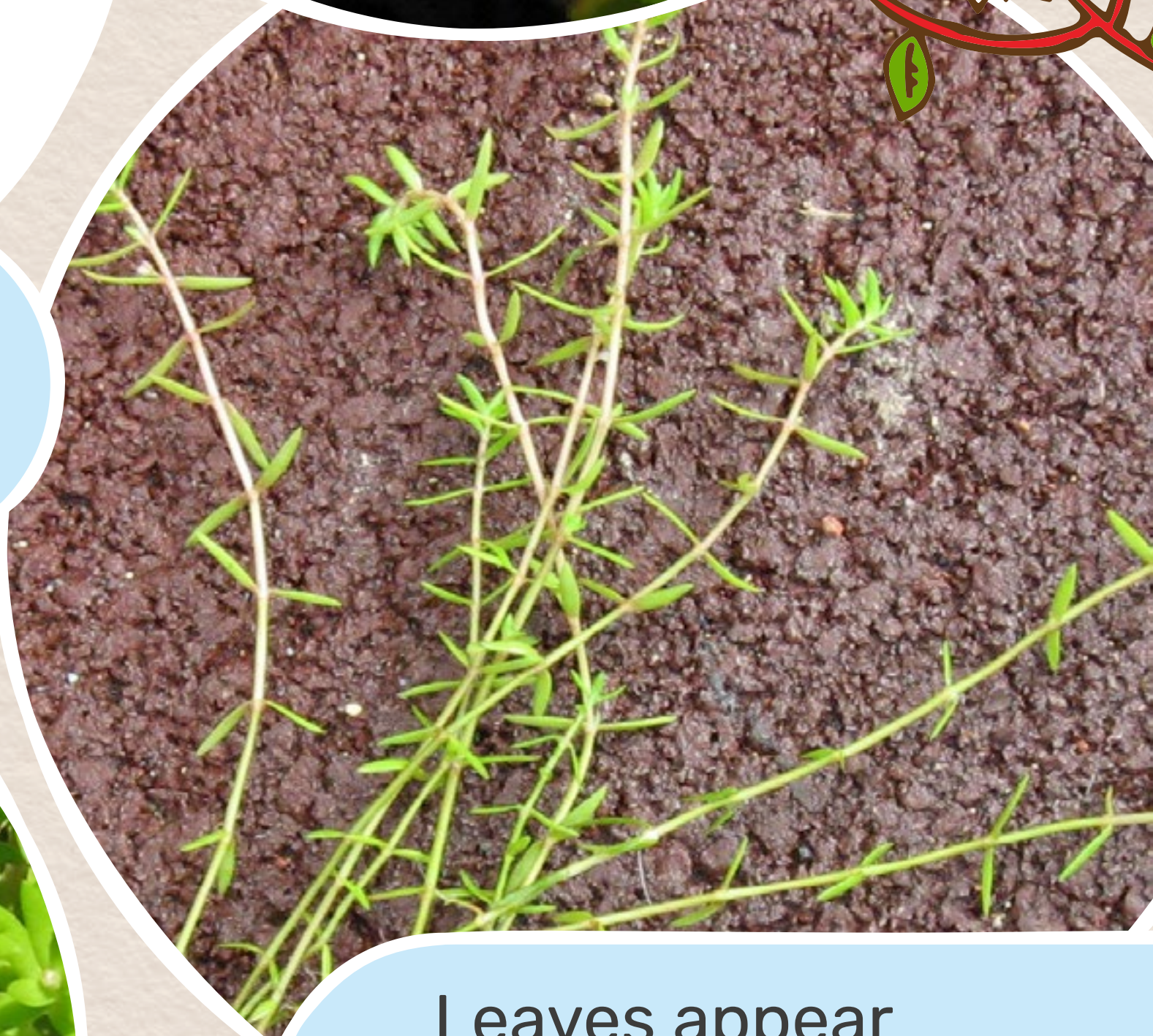
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Key identification features

Solitary white or pale pink flowers in July to September.



Green, opposite and succulent leaves.
Round stem.



Leaves appear flatter, less fleshy when submerged.



Leaves appear fleshy above water.

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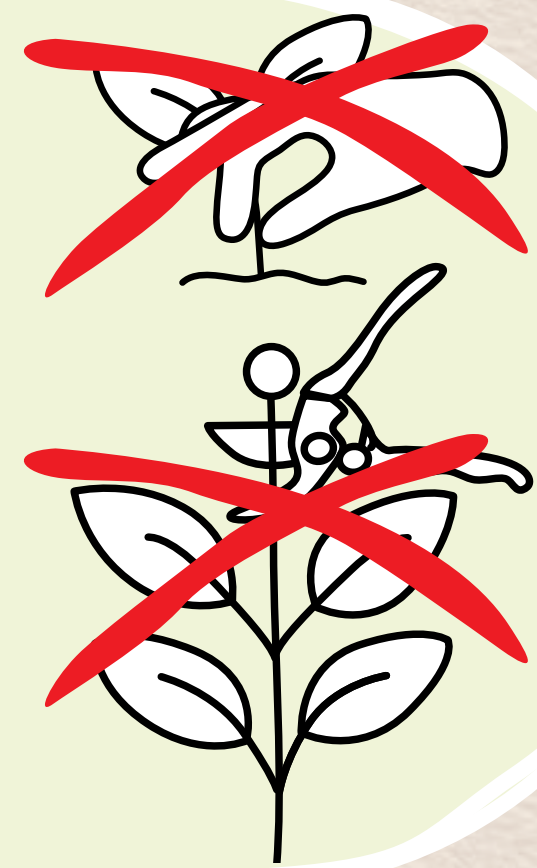
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Take action

Help **stop** the **spread!**



Australian swamp stonecrop can grow from a single fragment (with a single node) as small as 5mm. Managing it by hand or tools is therefore not advised due to the extreme risk of inadvertently spreading the plant.



You can however:

Take care when maintaining your pond: Check, Clean and Dry boots, clothing and equipment.

Stop animals such as pets being able to access the area.

You can find a list of management guidance resources [here](#).

Explore our tips for alternative plant ideas.

**Don't buy
Australian
swamp
stonecrop** 

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Handy tips

Legislation

Australian swamp stonecrop is listed as an invasive species on [Schedule 9](#) of the [Wildlife and Countryside Act](#) (1981). It is an **offence to plant or cause to grow in the wild**.

Australian swamp stonecrop is **prohibited from sale** in England due to its significant negative impacts on nature and the economy.

Similar species:

Not to be confused with the native water starworts such as *Callitriche brutia*.



Water starwort



Water mint

Alternative plant ideas

Native

Whorled water-milfoil
(*Myriophyllum verticillatum*)

Curled pondweed
(*Potamogeton crispus*)

Water mint (*Mentha aquatica*)

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